Abductors kill Indian teener for failure to pay ransom

STORY ON PAGE A2

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2002 ★★ 46 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 39 ₱15

THEY'RE here. At the Southcom in Zamboanga City, American and Filipino military officials meet behind closed doors at the start of an alleged training exercise in Abu Sayyaf country, Basilan.

AFP

US expands military presence worldwide

WASHINGTON—The United States is rapidly increasing its military ties with nations large and small—thanks to the war on terrorism.

That means more US soldiers will be spread around the globe in the coming years, despite President George W. Bush's warning during his election campaign that the military was stretched thin, with too many overseas deployments.

US/ A6

Palace deception on RP-US pact hit

By John Nery, Cynthia D. Balana and Juliet Javellana

A FORMER Senate president yesterday charged that a new military agreement between the United States and the Philippines was already in effect, even as the presence of American troops in Basilan island, ostensibly on war exercises, drew strong condemnation from across the country.

Citing information relayed to him by a "high government official," former Sen. Jovito Salonga told the Inquirer "a logistics agreement" had already been signed, while "a cross-servicing agreement" was still under study.

He said that at least two Cabinet officials "raised questions regarding the validity of the arrangement." Salonga, now president of Kilosbayan, also suggested that a high-ranking official who opposed the developments was considering resignation.

But the real danger, he warned, is that the Americans may remain in the country for the long haul, even in the event the last hostages of the Abu Sayyaf are rescued. "They will not (leave because) it's an ongoing war on terrorism."

In the Senate, a former Armed Forces chief of staff and a co-author of the Visiting Forces Agreement accused the Palace for trying

PALACE/ A6

32 dead in pro-Nur rally

Marines, cops clash in Jolo

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Martin P. Marfil
in Manila

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Nine Marine soldiers, three Philippine National Police integrees and 20 civilians were killed when a grenade exploded and a firefight ensued during a rally by Nur Misuari's supporters in front of the municipal hall of Jolo, Sulu yesterday.

Initial reports reaching the Inquirer said only three civilians were killed, but the Agence France Presse reported late last night that the civilian fatalities had risen to 20.

Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, Task Force Comet chief, said two PNP integrees and scores of civilians were also wounded.

Nurshida Julambri, a government employee and resident of Jolo, said the mayhem started when a Marine soldier allegedly lobbed a grenade at the rally.

"The first grenade exploded. The soldier's second attempt to throw another grenade was stopped by a PNP integree. That's how the mayhem started," Julambri said in Filipino in a phone interview.

Integrees are members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) who were absorbed into the PNP following the signing of a peace accord in 1996 between the

32 DEAD/ A6

THE EDSA Shrine of Our Lady of Peace where soldiers in full battle gear are now deployed looks like a war zone four days before the observance of Edsa II on Jan. 20.

JOAN BONDOC

Mindanao war game is legal, says AFP

By Martin P. Marfil and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

NOT just a war game of short duration, but an extended military operation involving an actual enemy and hundreds of US troops never before deployed on Philippine soil on such a large scale since the United States was forced out its military bases here in 1992.

This, in sum, is "Kalayaan-Aguila 2002," codename of what is supposed to be the latest RP-US training exercise, according to Philippine military and defense officials.

The officials, however, denied the joint exercise contravened the Constitution.

"Our lawyers have reviewed provisions of the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty and Visiting Forces Agreement," Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, Armed Forces deputy chief of staff, told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

"And we are confident that the exercise falls under existing treaties and agreements," Abaya added.

The controversial war game yesterday got off to a low-key start in Western Mindanao, where the Americans could figure in combat against the local terrorist allies of Osama bin Laden.

MINDANAO/ A16

Pro-Erap group meeting PNP officer

By TJ Burgonio and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ANY police or military official found conspiring with the pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) in its plan to mobilize forces this week has been ordered arrested by Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police.

A police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, yesterday disclosed that the PMAP led by Ronald Lumbao had been meeting with certain persons, including an officer of the PNP, outside Metro Manila in the past weeks.

"General Mendoza has given instructions to arrest military or PNP personnel who have attended the meetings," the source said in an interview.

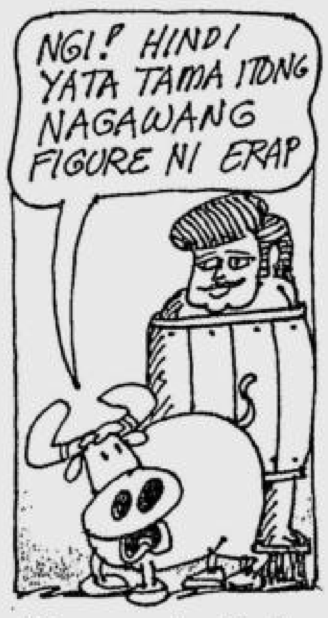
The source declined to name the PNP officer in question or to say whether he was in the active service or had retired.

Mendoza held a conference yesterday with directors of support units in Camp Crame, regional directors of Laguna and Nueva Ecija, and police chiefs in Metro Manila to map out security preparations for the government's commemoration of People Power II.

Mendoza said a group close to Chief Supt. Victor Batac yesterday sought a meeting with him.

"I'm going to meet him after this (conference). We're going to talk about it," Mendoza said when asked to confirm reports that Batac was involved in a destabilization plot

PRO-ERAP/ A16



NGI! HINDI YATA TAMA ITONG NAGAWANG FIGURE NI ERAP

Erap to join Cory, Eddie up 'Stairs'

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The wooden figures of "Edsa heroes" Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Jaime Cardinal Sin in this city's famous "Igorot Stairs" are waiting for an unlikely companion: disgraced former President Joseph Estrada.

"Oh, it is not our intention to bring Edsa

ERAP/ A16

Pañero, Big J end row: Ties go a long way

By Rocky Nazareno and Cynthia D. Balana

THE EXPECTED showdown in the Senate between Senators Renato Cayetano and Robert Jaworski ended in a handshake and high-fives.

With Senate President Franklin Drilon holding each by the arm, Cayetano and Jaworski mended fences after clashing on the minority's call for the Senate committee on ethics to expel Cayetano from the chamber.

"I would have reacted the same

PAÑERO/ A16

IT'S NIGHT and day for the generals as they plan the Edsa II rites' security. From left, Deputy Director General Rex Piad, Director De Leon, Chief Supt. Jose Lalisan, Director Edgardo Aglipay and Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane.

JOAN BONDOC

Economic numbers lower now than in Estrada's watch

By Agnes E. Donato

FIGURE this one out.

Economic growth during ousted President Joseph Estrada's last year in office was higher than during the first year of the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

This was the finding of an independent research think tank, Ibon Foundation, which it reported in a year-end briefing yesterday.

Ibon research director Antonio Tujan Jr. said that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) only grew by 3.1 percent in the first nine months of 2001, much lower than its 4.1-percent expansion during the same period in 2000, Estrada's last year in office.

ECONOMIC/ A16

'Country needs a leader, not a manager'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Romulo O. Ponte and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.

ALTHOUGH big business still backs the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, she should heed her critics' call to change her management style and focus on the country's problems, according to industrialist Raul Concepcion.

"What the country needs now is a leader, not an economic manager," the chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries said yesterday. "She is a good manager but she needs to be more charismatic and be able to motivate and unite the people of all sectors."

Concepcion said the President came across not only as "too strong or *mataray*" but also as "all-knowing," a trait that, he said, was disturbing most people, especially the masses.

He said that instead of setting her sights on the 2004 elections, she should focus on resolving the economic problem because this would ultimately put the people on her side and pave the way for her victory at the polls.

Various groups disenchanted with the administration yesterday announced plans for mass actions to mark the first anniversary of the people power uprising that installed Ms Macapagal as President.

In Biñan, Laguna, about 1,000 urban poor residents who are facing eviction from low-cost housing units are mounting a rally today to bring their plight to the government's attention.

COUNTRY/ A16

GRABE NAMAN YAN!

Kidnappers kill Indian teener

SAN JOSE CITY—An Indian male who was reported kidnapped on Jan. 8 was found dead in Lupao town in Nueva Ecija on Saturday after his family failed to pay the P3-million ransom demanded by his abductors.

The victim was identified as Gurdith Sukhal, 19, a resident of this city and a son of a moneylender. His body, which was found near a stream along the highway in Barangay Tienzo in Lupao, bore several stab wounds.

In Manila, police reported the kidnapping of a Hong Kong-born Chinese Filipino by gunmen who demanded a P10-million ransom.

Chan Chin Luy, also known as Johnny Chan, originally from Kowloon, was seized from his home in Rosario town in Batangas on Jan. 7 by unknown men, police said.

They did not say who they suspected to be behind the abduction of Chan, a longtime resident of the area.

Police said Gurdith Sukhal's father, Lallyarwal, reported his son's disappearance after he failed to return from a trip to Sto. Domingo town to collect on loan payments on Jan. 8.

The father told police that he received four telephone calls on Jan. 8, informing him that his son would be released only if a P3-million ransom was paid.

Police accompanied Lallyarwal to Barangay Sto. Rosario in Sto. Domingo where they found Sukhal's abandoned car.

Lallyarwal also learned from Flor Santos, a barangay resident, that Sukhal had been taken by three armed men immediately after he collected her loan payment.

Police could not say how much money Sukhal was carrying when he was abducted.

The police theorized that the kidnappers killed Sukhal after they failed to get a response from his parents to the ransom demand.

In the Batangas case, relatives of the missing Chan said the businessman had just returned from a business trip abroad.

Chan, a Chinese-Filipino who was born in Hong Kong and brought to the Philippines when he was nine, owns SJC General Merchandise in the Rosario town market. Three male helpers said they last saw him in the family's warehouse at the Riverside Subdivision in Barangay San Roque. They did not see him leave.

Rosario police chief Supt. Abelardo Rellora said Chan's family has stopped cooperating with police since his wife's parents and relatives arrived in Rosario.

"But the investigation continues," Rellora said.

The National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force came to Rosario on Jan. 8, a day after Chan disappeared and is helping local police.

Chan's family has appealed to the media not to publicize the incident. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk, Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and AFP***

RP gives ₱10M for Afghan rehab

THE PHILIPPINES will donate $200,000 (roughly P10 million) to the United Nations fund for the rehabilitation of war-torn Afghanistan, a ranking official of the Department of Foreign Affairs announced yesterday.

Assistant Secretary Victoriano Lecaros, spokesperson of the DFA, said the member-countries of the United Nations have all been asked to contribute to rehabilitation of the erstwhile hideout of international terrorist Osama bin Laden.

"(Countries) were asked to contribute according to their capacity. Others have even contributed millions of dollars," Lecaros said, addressing concerns of how the Philippines could aid another country when it is likewise in need of foreign assistance.

Lecaros added that the UN assistance would be used on the reconstruction of Afghan homes, vital infrastructure, food and other basic needs.

"This is meant to help them get through winter," Lecaros said.

This is the second time the Philippines has considered giving assistance to the war-torn country following its take-over by the Northern Alliance from the Taliban extremists with the help of the US-led coalition against terrorism.

EX-SOLON'S PROTEST. Former Rep. Ricardo Quintos of Mindoro Occidental is greeted by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Senators Renato Cayetano and Edgardo Angara during yesterday's confirmation hearing at the Commission on Appointments. Quintos went to the commission to register his opposition to the release of the suspects in the killing of his sons, which Perez recommended. JESS YUSON

Ex-solon bucks release of suspects in sons' slay

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER Mindoro Occidental Rep. Ricardo Quintos has protested President Macapagal-Arroyo's approving the release of six suspected New People's Army cadres who are being detained for the killing of his sons, Paul and Michael, in 1997.

The justice, interior and defense departments had recommended the release of the six suspects as a confidence-building measure to help restart the peace talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front.

"The case is with the courts and the Executive clearly cannot meddle in the affairs of the judiciary," Quintos said in a statement.

Ms Macapagal has approved the recommendation for release of more than 30 political offenders over the weekend.

The approval covered the six—Mandito Mauricio, Eduardo Hermoso, Josue Ungsod, Mario Tobias, Ruben Halaguer and Gelito Bautista—who are all suspects in the Quintos double-murder case.

Quintos said that in deciding to free the suspects as "political offenders," the government was virtually absolving them of murder.

He said records showed that none of the six accused has claimed membership with the NPA.

"And even granting that (the suspects) are connected with the NPA, does that absolve them of murder?" he asked.

"What happens now to those charged with the killings of Congressmen Rodolfo Aguinaldo and Marcial Punzalan Jr. and Mayor Cesar Platon? Will they too be absolved?" Quintos said.

Michael and Paul Quintos were killed in an ambush in Barangay Cinco, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro, on Dec. 13, 1997. Their father accused a political rival, the then Occidental Mindoro Rep. Jose Villarosa, of masterminding the killing.

A few days after the killings, the NPA claimed responsibility for the Quintos murders through an unsigned letter sent by fax to the INQUIRER. It said the Quintoses were despotic landlords who were allegedly harassing and killing workers and farmers.

However, Hermoso has confessed that he was the gunman. He said he was present at a meeting in which Villarosa allegedly discussed the assassination of Michael.

"(It) is unfortunate that the recommendation to release my sons' killers would come from Justice Secretary Hernando Perez whose law office had previously handled the estafa cases of Gov. Jose Villarosa, the alleged mastermind in the murders of my son," Quintos said.

The Quintos murder case is still in its trial stage. Villarosa, who was elected governor last May, is out on a P400,000 bail bond. Although murder is a nonbailable offense, the judge allowed Villarosa to post bail after declaring the evidence against him as weak.

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Sandigan postpones Estrada trial; lawyers don't know why

By Volt Contreras

THE SANDIGANBAYAN canceled today's hearing of ex-President Joseph Estrada's plunder trial, just when his loyalists are to kick off a series of protest activities marking the first anniversary of his ouster.

The Third Division's acting chair, Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro, did not give a reason for the cancellation when she made the announcement shortly before the adjournment of the last hearing on Monday.

"It was a moto propio order, without an explanation," recalled state prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio yesterday. "Nobody bothered to ask why since both sides welcomed it."

Even the office of the Clerk of Court could not give the media a definite explanation while Third Division justices refused requests for interviews. The office of the court sheriff was also clueless.

Villa-Ignacio could only surmise that the order may have been spurred by the Sandiganbayan en banc's resolution on Monday wherein the anti-graft court left it to the Supreme Court's decision to create a "special division" for Estrada cases.

"Maybe the (Third Division) now just wanted to wait for the Supreme Court to decide on the matter," he said.

The next Estrada plunder hearing will be on Jan. 21.

With the lull in court proceedings, the Estrada camp brings the battle to the streets starting today with protest marches, candle light vigils and forums in different parts of Metro Manila—all in condemnation of Edsa II.

Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino laid down the themes of such exercise in a press forum yesterday, wherein it called on symphatizers of the deposed president to wear black ribbons or armbands as a sign of "mourning."

At the PMP forum at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan, Estrada lawyer Raymund Fortun taunted state prosecutors, who he said have yet to produce solid evidence against his client.

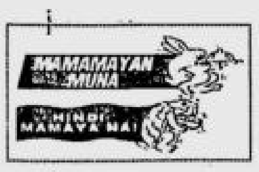
"Let them present witnesses instead of using to press to malign Estrada," he said.

PMP spokesperson Jesus Crispin Remulla called for an "objective, clinical" review of the issues and events that led to Edsa II, particularly with regards to the infamous "second envelope" of the aborted Estrada impeachment trial.

Shortly after Estrada's ouster, the Senate had the envelope finally opened.

"When the media listed its contents, the bombshell being claimed by the prosecution, the so-called evidence that would nail Mr. Estrada (on the Jose Velarde account issue), turned out to be a dud."

Next week, the plunder trial is expected to begin tackling the Velarde bank account—whether it was really owned by Estrada to stash away alleged ill-gotten wealth.



Nani nears confirmation

By Rocky Nazareno

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday moved a step closer to being confirmed after the Commission on Appointments committee on justice endorsed his appointment to the CA pre-session caucus today.

It was the first positive step toward Perez's confirmation, nearly a year after he was named justice secretary and after he was by-passed for four times.

But the rough sailing may not yet be over for Perez.

Opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, the staunchest oppositor to his confirmation, yesterday told the Inquirer that he will "definitely have questions" for Perez to answer in today's pre-session CA caucus.

The CA holds the pre-session caucus to iron out any remaining opposition to an official's confirmation.

But should any CA member decide to further delay any nominee's confirmation, he or she can invoke Section 20 of the CA rules to block the confirmation.

Section 20 is a non-debatable motion to defer consideration of a nominee.

It may be invoked during the CA plenary session.

And this proves to be the remaining stumbling block to Perez's confirmation.

But Osmeña, who was absent in yesterday's committee hearing because he was sick, refused to reveal if he would invoke Section 20 on Perez's confirmation.

Osmeña maintained that he is only poised to grill Perez on his approval of the power contract between Argentinian firm IMPSA and the National Power Corp.

'Hehe' gets new appointment

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez has reason to grin these days.

In his second press briefing at Malacañang, Alvarez told reporters that he has been re-appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, contrary to reports.

"That's a naughty suggestion," he told a reporter who asked if he has already been re-appointed after he was bypassed by the Commission on Appointments last year.

With a wide smile, he showed a copy of his re-appointment dated Dec. 23, 2001.

He also showed reporters Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo's letter to the CA dated Dec. 23 submitting his name for confirmation.

He said Senate reporters had wrongly reported that he was not among the Cabinet officials who were re-appointed after being bypassed.

The reporters based their story on the commission records.

"A number of people have called up our office, it's already there," Alvarez said.

"Some people allowed some naughty thoughts that I was bypassed. In the first place, I have not been scheduled (for hearing) so I could not have been bypassed," he added.

Aside from him, Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez was reportedly also not re-appointed. But reports said he had also been re-appointed.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao last week said Ms Macapagal will re-appoint the two Alvarez.

He said the President probably wanted to get their commitment that they will try to convince the CA members to confirm them.

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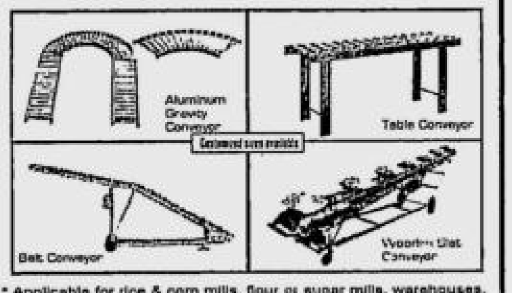

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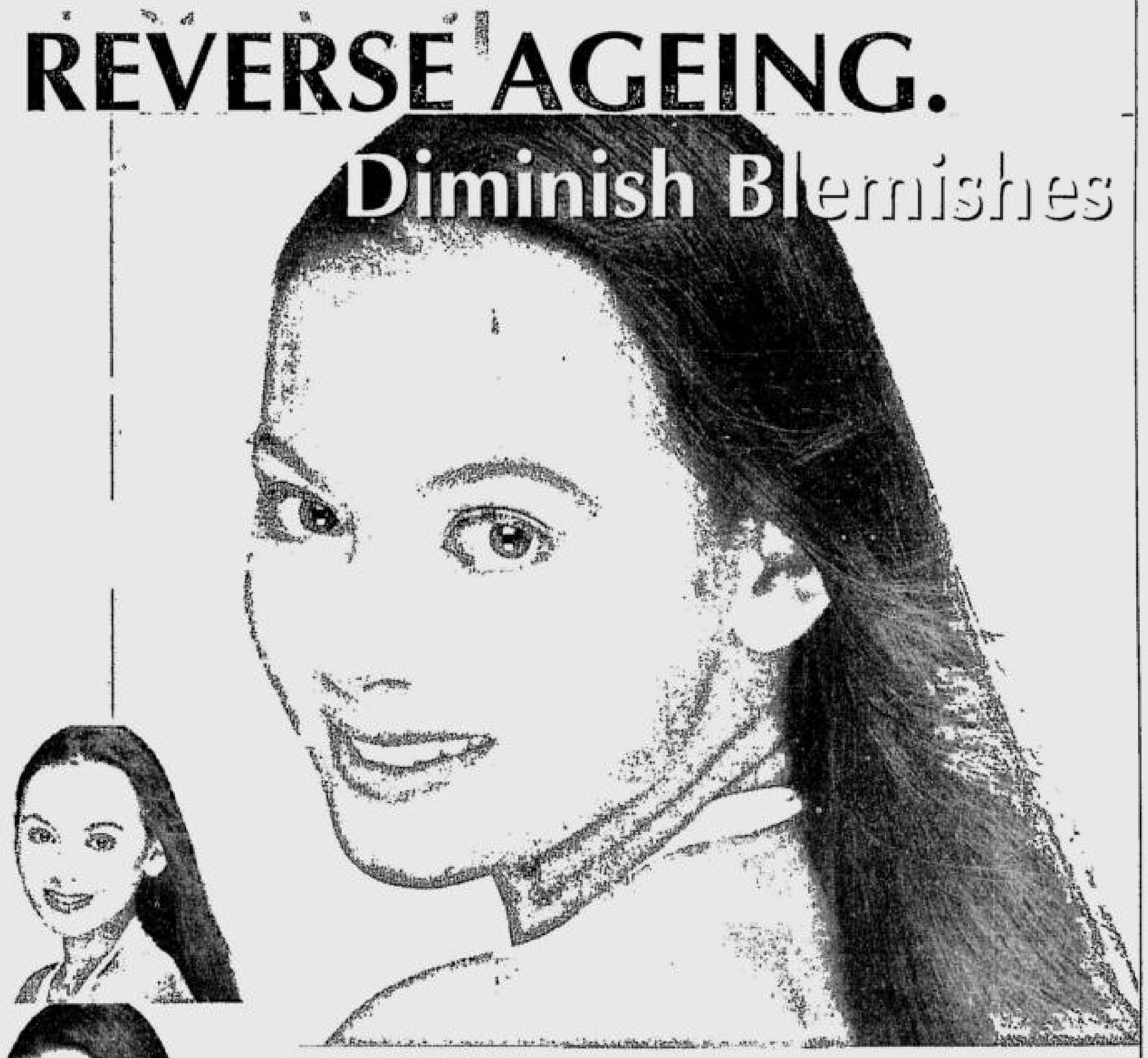

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1. Starting January 18, 2002, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Unitrust Development Bank (UDB).
2. From January 18 to 25, 2002, depositors shall be serviced on an "alphabetical basis" depending on the starting letter of their surnames/company names, as follows:
   - January 18, 2002 (Friday) - A to B
   - January 21, 2002 (Monday) - C to D
   - January 22, 2002 (Tuesday) - E to J
   - January 23, 2002 (Wednesday) - K to O
   - January 24, 2002 (Thursday) - P to R
   - January 25, 2002 (Friday) - S to Z
3. After January 25, 2002, deposit claims processing and settlement shall be on a "first come, first served" basis.
4. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the UDB office/branch where they maintained their deposits, which have been designated as payoff sites (please refer to table below). PDIC representatives are stationed at these payoff sites to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

UDB Office/Branch and Payoff Site	Servicing Dates
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Baclaran Branch G/F Fox Cinema Building, Quirino Avenue, Baclaran, Parañaque	January 18 to February 8, 2002
Caloocan Branch G/F Doña Lolita Bldg., Rizal Avenue Ext., Brgy. 62, Caloocan City	January 18 to February 1, 2002
Cash and Carry Branch Cash & Carry Commercial Center, South Superhighway, Makati City	January 18 to February 15, 2002
Cubao Branch 904 Aurora Blvd., Brgy. Cubao, 3rd Dist., Quezon City	January 18 to February 1, 2002
Exchange Corner Branch G/F Exchange Corner Bldg. 107 Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	January 18 to February 8, 2002
Guadalupe Branch 15-E Glean Bldg., Brgy. Guadalupe Nuevo, EDSA, Makati City	January 18 to February 8, 2002
Kalayaan Branch Tamayo Bldg., 3786 Kalayaan Avenue Brgy. Pinagkaisahan, Makati City	January 18 to February 15, 2002
Makati Avenue Branch Makati Avenue cor. Singian St., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	January 18 to February 8, 2002
Marikina Branch 297 J.P. Rizal St., Brgy. Sto. Niño, Marikina City	January 18 to February 8, 2002
Quiapo Branch Don Juan Pasco Bldg., Unit 204-206, Quezon Blvd. cor. Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila	January 18 to February 8, 2002
San Juan Branch 75 N. Domingo St., Brgy. Rivera, San Juan, Metro Manila	January 18 to February 1, 2002
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After the said servicing dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to:

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5. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
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   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositors's signature
   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
6. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Unitrust Development Bank is on June 28, 2003. After June 28, 2003, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

(PDI - Jan. 16 & 17, 2002) PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

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High court orders gov't to answer Nur's petition

THE SUPREME Court yesterday ordered the government to comment on the petitions for habeas corpus filed by Moro leader Nur Misuari and former Moro National Liberation Front commanders who are being detained in Taguig.

In an en banc resolution, the high tribunal instructed Interior Secretary Joey Lina and Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza to comment on the petitions not later than Jan. 21.

The camp commanders of Fort Sto. Domingo in Laguna, where Misuari is being detained, and Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig, where his allies are being kept, were also asked to give their comments.

The SC decided to consolidate the separate petitions for habeas corpus and ordered the respondents to comment.

SC sources said the court en banc would immediately rule on the petitions for habeas corpus the day after it receives the government's comments.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo have also been asked to comment.

The SC has yet to decide on Misuari's petition for a change in trial venue from Luzon to Sulu.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has rejected a recommendation from Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. for the government to drop the rebellion charges against Misuari as "unrealistic," her spokesperson said yesterday.

"The President doesn't feel that that's a very realistic option nor is it an option that we could undertake given our commitment to uphold the rule of law," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Guingona said a grant of amnesty could be the "political solution" to the government's dilemma with Misuari.

Tiglao said Misuari should first prove he is innocent of the rebellion charges in court.

"Afterwards we will talk about the political solution," he said.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez would not comment on Guingona's proposal.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen believes the government would eventually release Misuari because his detention was a "nightmare" for the Macapagal administration.

Dilangalen, who is close to Misuari, said the government has to talk to Misuari to solve the MNLF problem, because it cannot fully implement the peace pact it signed with the MNLF without him.

MISUARI

He said the Misuari case required a political solution.

In a bid to establish a link between Misuari and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, an Army official claimed yesterday that one of Misuari's leaders had met with an Abu Sayyaf leader recently to discuss plans to sow terror in Sulu.

The meeting was held on Jan. 8 in Indanan, Sulu, Lt. Col. Fredisvindo Covarrubias, chief of the military's civil relations group in Western Mindanao, said.

He said military intelligence was able to monitor the meeting which was attended by the Abu Sayyaf's Abu Inundail and Papa Jalaide, from the Misuari camp.

Jalaide was one of those charged for rebellion in connection with the attacks on Army camps carried out by Misuari's followers last November.

Covarrubias said the group planned to harass a Marine camp in Luuk, Sulu.

According to Army intelligence, Misuari's men have been deployed in the same municipality waiting for the signal to attack, Covarrubias said.

He said other members of the pro-Misuari group were consolidating their ranks in different towns like Patikul and Indanan.

About 45 other pro-Misuari members have also been spotted in different places in Zamboanga City, the official said.

Dilangalen said Misuari would not escape nor allow his followers to spring him from prison.

"He (Nur) is very principled to do that... and government has no choice but to release him eventually," Dilangalen said, dismissing reports that armed supporters of Misuari would launch an urban terrorism campaign in Metro Manila to pressure government into releasing the former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

In a phone interview, Dilangalen said Misuari would not attempt to escape or allow people to rescue him because he believes he is innocent of the rebellion charges filed against him.

"If the threat to launch an urban terrorism campaign in Metro Manila is true, this group would just do it. Why warn the government?" said Dilangalen. *Reports from Norman Bordadora, Christine Avendaño, Martin P. Marfil and Dona Pazzibugan*

Tighter rules put Dole, recruiters at a standoff

STO. TOMAS

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment and the country's recruitment industry are at a standoff as recruitment firms accused the government of clamping down on them through harsh regulations.

The Federated Association of Manpower Exporters (FAME) said the new rules governing the recruitment industry would cause the closure of more than 50 percent of the country's 1,300 licensed manning companies.

FAME chair Eduardo Mahiya said the federation, which represents around 600 recruitment firms, is contemplating on filing a petition before the Supreme Court questioning the legality of the "repressive" rules.

Mahiya said the new regulations, which mandates the termination of the license of recruitment firms on their first transgression, violate the Migrant Workers Act of 1995.

He further said the skyrocketing capitalization mandated by the new rules would paralyze the deployment of overseas Filipino workers who find work abroad through recruitment agencies.

But Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas stood pat on her stand that the new rules were constitutional and served to help OFWs, who have been complaining of abuses by recruiters.

Sto. Tomas said she was merely delivering on her promise to OFWs that the government would do away with exploitative arrangements initiated by many manning firms.

She said the OFWs who met with her and the President during their various trips abroad, complained of overcharging, causing OFWs to be perennially indebted to recruitment agencies.

"Between the interest of the recruiters and the interest of the workers, I'll back the interest of the workers anytime," Sto. Tomas said in a phone interview.

The new rules raised the capitalization of recruitment agencies from P1 million to P2 million and the cash bond from P300,000 to P1 million.

It also said the licenses would be terminated on the first violation of deployment laws. The DOLE had previously waited for a final decision from the court on the third offense before revoking licenses.

"More agencies will be closed because of this. We cannot afford it even on a staggered basis of payment," Mahiya said in a phone interview yesterday.

"The deployment of OFWs will definitely go down. One mistake is already tantamount to closure," he added. The Overseas Placement Association of the Philippines, which is one of nine members of FAME, sends out around 9,000 Filipinos abroad every month.

The Macapagal administration aims to deploy one million Filipinos abroad annually to ease the employment situation here, where around 4.5 million Filipinos are unemployed.

The DOLE chief said she was not threatened by any petition before the Supreme Court because the Supreme Court has upheld the right of the DOLE to establish regulations on the deployment of OFWs "many times" in the past.

Only minor corrections are being made on the new implementing rules and regulations governing recruitment before Sto. Tomas signs the final order.

Comelec lets go of 168 casuals

THE COMMISSION on Elections has dismissed 168 casual employees from its bloated departments as part of the poll body's cost-cutting measures.

The 168 employees were from the education and information department, administration division, finance department and the office of the commission secretary.

Their contracts expired on Jan. 2 and were not renewed as per the order of the Comelec top brass, who met last month regarding the streamlining of the Comelec staff.

Lawyer Caridad Walse Lutero, chief executive secretary of Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo, said most of the casual employees were tasked to perform functions already given to regular employees.

She said this maintained redundancy in responsibilities and even encouraged laziness among the regular employees.

The Comelec will again hire casual employees in March for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections in May, but Lutero said this would not exceed 168.

Half of RP's combat planes grounded

By Norman Bordadora
and Cynthia D. Balana

MORE than half of the country's warplanes was grounded following the crash of yet another one of the Philippine Air Force' S-211 fighters on Monday.

PAF chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor ordered the grounding of the country's eight operational S-211 fighter jets pending the investigation of the crash that claimed the lives of at least six people, including two Air Force pilots, in Cabanatuan City.

With the grounding of the eight S-211's the country's air defense has been limited to six operational F-5 fighters. Aside from the F-5's, the Air Force' remaining combat planes are propeller-type air-to-ground fighters such as the OV-10's and SF-260's.

Lapinid said there were 18 S-211 jets in the PAF inventory but the budget could only maintain and operate eight.

As for the F-5's, Lapinid said that there were 12 in the inventory. The Air Force budget, he said, could only manage six for maintenance and operations.

In the House of Representatives, the head of the foreign affairs committee asked the House to reinvestigate the military's purchase of S-211 trainer jets.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada said

Congress should determine why the military went ahead in purchasing the trainer jets from Agusta in 1991 when Italy does not even use them.

"In grounding the remaining S-211's, the commanding general has ordered a thorough inspection of the eight remaining S-211's by our technicians. The inspection would be from the nose to the tail," PAF spokesperson Col. Horacio Lapinid told the INQUIRER.

The grounding of the S-211 aircraft would remain until the investigation determined whether mechanical problems caused the crash that killed young pilot Lt. Raymond Brian De Guzman and his trainer Capt. Louie Ramos.

Lapinid said it might take some time before investigators could get to the bottom of things. The crash also killed four residents as the plane plowed through 15 to 20 houses inside the National Food Authority compound in Cabanatuan City.

"It would be difficult to determine the cause of the crash because the plane disintegrated. Fighter jets are not equipped with black boxes (that would record what transpired prior to the crash)," Lapinid said.

The S-211's are primarily used as trainer aircraft by the PAF. Ramos and De Guzman were on one of the routine training flights when the tragedy happened after they took off from Basa Air Base in Pampanga.

Defensor yesterday sent a PAF civil military operations team to Cabanatuan City to determine whatever assistance the PAF could give to the residents, who suffered losses as a result of the crash.

"The PAF assistance could be in the burial expenses for those who lost their loved ones. It could also help in those who need to reconstruct their houses," Lapinid said.

In the Senate, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon called for a review of the revised program of equipment acquisition by the military for its modernization program to make sure that it was buying the right kind of equipment for the right price.

In Senate Resolution No. 206, Biazon asked the committees on finance and national defense and security to look into the acquisition program in view of the P5 billion cut in the modernization budget of the Congress-approved appropriations measure.

The reduction could adversely affect the schedule of acquisition program as it already has pending contracts that require disbursements of funds over a five-year period starting this year.

"The AFP may have to review its priorities in its equipment acquisition program, probably by putting more emphasis on individual weapons and basic tactical communications equipment for the infantry and combat support units of the Philippine Army and the Philippine Marines over more expensive Corvettes, multi-role aircraft and air surveillance equipment," he said.

He said the military should also consider the acquisition of combat support equipment such as helicopters and fast patrol boats, as well as mobility items such as vehicles and armor.

Biazon said modernizing the basic equipment of the troops and combat support equipment would directly affect the capability of the Armed Forces to address internal security in the country.

Republic Act No. 7898 or the AFP Modernization Act required the AFP to submit a moderrization program, which Congress approved through Joint Resolution No. 28 dated Dec. 19, 1996.

Biazon said the inquiry by the two committees would focus on reconciling the requirements of the AFP modernization program with the reduced appropriations under the 2002 General Appropriations Act.

This, he said, would ensure a judicious use of the meager funding. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

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Coco farmers want bigger say on levy

COCONUT farmers organizations yesterday appealed for significant representation in corporations where government has appointed nominees to protect coconut levy funds invested in such firms.

But the National Coconut Farmers Coordinating Council also urged leaders of non-government organizations helping the farmers to give way to real coconut farmers in the boards of these corporations, particularly the United Coconut Planters Bank.

The national farmers organizations and representatives of NGOs working for the recovery of the levy should show their sincerity "by giving priority to representatives of ordinary genuine farmers and setting aside their nomination to the UCPB board," the NCFCC said.

It was noted that Efren Villaseñor, president of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Samahan ng mga Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan (PKSMMN), has already declined his nomination to the UCPB board.

Malacañang has nominated two other NGO representatives: Joey Faustino, executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR) and Vic Fabe, president of the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (Pakisama).

Villaseñor, who sits as farmer representative in the board of the Philippine Coconut Authority, earlier said he was declining the nomination to give way to representatives of small coconut farmers in the countryside.

He urged other NGO leaders to follow suit.

Villaseñor has proposed a random selection of farmer representatives to the UCPB board through a "raffle" of names to be submitted by farmers' organizations.

Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao should each have a representative in the UCPB board, Villaseñor said. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

Ongpin awards expanded

THE JAIME V. Ongpin Awards for Investigative Journalism has been expanded to include explanatory reporting for the 2001 awards to be given in June, according to the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR).

The JVO program now recognizes not just the best investigative reports but also the best explanatory reports each year, thus requiring a change in name to the Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Excellence in Journalism.

The JVO Awards, named for the late businessman Jaime V. Ongpin, has been running for 12 years since 1989. It pays tribute to the role Ongpin played in promoting press freedom in the latter years of Marcos rule.

The CMFR, which continues to serve as the secretariat of the JVO Awards, is now accepting nominations for works published in 2001.

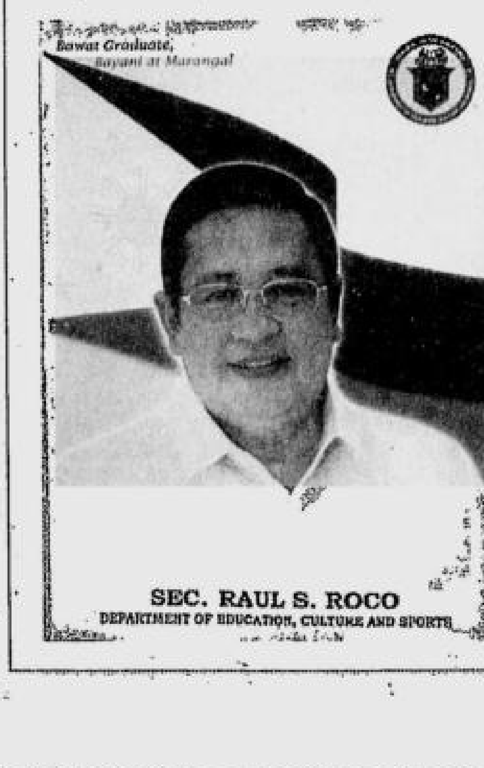
Newspaper publishers and editors are also invited to nominate their candidates. But as in the past 12 years, the CMFR has already been undertaking an independent scan of last year's investigative and explanatory articles published in Metro Manila broadsheets.

The new category of explanatory reporting covers articles that explain a process or provide background material for events in the news.

Journalists who wish to submit articles for the 2001 Awards may obtain entry forms at the CMFR office at the 2nd floor of the Ateneo Professional Schools, 130 H.V. de la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. No fee is required for the submission of entries.

The deadline for submission of entries is Feb. 22. Those submitting by mail should observe the deadline accordingly by making sure their entries are postmarked on or before that date.

For inquiries, call the CMFR at 894-1314, 894-1326, or 840-0889.


Bawat Graduate, Bayani at Marangal
SEC. RAUL S. ROCO
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS

WRONG POSTER

The picture published in the Jan. 11 issue of the INQUIRER was not the controversial poster of Education Secretary Raul Roco that the Association of Concerned Teachers had alleged to be campaign material for the presidential election in 2004. What the INQUIRER used was the 2000 calendar of then Senator Roco. We regret the inadvertence.—Ed.

CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH
-Private Sector-

Many thanks...

We would like to start the year by thanking all those who have helped make, in one way or another, the monitoring of oil and petroleum products and the 17 prime commodities a successful endeavor.

- To the consuming public, for their show of appreciation.
- To the press and media, for their all out support.
- To the oil companies, for listening to the sentiment of the people.

PRICE WATCH 2002

This year, we are extending our monitoring to other issues and areas of concern that greatly affect the general public. These are power and water rates and transport and shipping rates.

We would like to reiterate that **our SOLE intent** is to communicate to the public, in a transparent and user-friendly language, the rationale behind increases or decreases in rates and **not** to put any company, industry or Regulatory Agency in a bad light.

MILESTONE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

We will meet with the industries concerned and with the following Regulatory Agencies that grant petitions for rate inceases, to be able to understand the rationale behind their decision.

1. **Transport Fares** - Chairman Dante Lantin of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board
2. **Power Rates** - Chairman Fe Barin of the Energy Regulatory Commission
3. **Shipping Rates & Port Charges** - Administrator Oscar M. Sevilla of the Maritime Industry Authority **(Marina)** and General Manager Alfonso G. Cusi of the Philippine Port Authority
4. **Water Rates** - Atty. Herman Cimafranca of the Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System **(MWSS)**

We will give the Consumers an update on the result of our various meetings.

... and we look forward to a better year ahead!

A public service message of:
CONCEPCION INDUSTRIES

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

For comments or inquiries, call 844-8785, 812-6751 to 62; Fax: 818-6203
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Palace deception on RP-US pact hit

(From page A1)

to pull a fast one.

"Malacañang should stop (its) deceptions!" Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said.

He said the 6- to- 12 month duration of this year's edition of the annual Balikatan war game, as announced by Malacañang, was not within the definition of military field exercises under the VFA, which became law in 1999.

The leader of the opposition in the House also scored the presence of American troops.

"Their presence here . . . is a violation of the Constitution but the military is circumventing the provision first by making it appear that they (US) are advisers and that this is a joint military exercise," House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said.

Opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta hit the Macapagal administration for allegedly taking legal and constitutional short-cuts.

"The direct participation by US troops in combat operations—specifically to rescue American hostages Martin and Gracia Burnham from the Abu Sayyaf—under the cover of purported joint RP-US war games under the VFA, would turn the annual 'Balikatan' exercises into a 'Banatan' exercise that would run right smack into the constitutional ban on the presence of foreign military troops and facilities in the country," she said.

The Burnhams, an American missionary couple, and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap are the Abu Sayyaf's last hostages; they have been held captive for over seven months.

'Legal sophistry'

In Mindanao, local government officials and militant groups slammed the administration for resorting to "legal sophistry" to justify the participation of US military forces in the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

"I oppose the intervention of the US. It does not speak well (of) the country. Our soldiers are capable and competent," Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said. He branded the arrival of the US forces in Mindanao as "an intervention (on) our sovereignty."

Even Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, the controversial Basilan parish priest who accused some AFP officers of colluding with the Abu Sayyaf, said he was against the arrival of the US troops in Basilan and Zamboanga.

"We don't need them. We can win against the Abu Sayyaf without them," he said.

Administration too

The statements of officials identified with the administration reflected the general surprise which greeted the news.

In the Senate, Sen. Ralph Recto asked that the terms of reference for the deployment of US forces in Western Mindanao include inputs from Congress and from legal experts.

Otherwise, Recto said, the war games could result in a permanent state of war in Mindanao. Noting that Mindanao development was one of the administration's priorities, Recto said Malacañang should clarify the parameters of Balikatan 02-1 and issue a "code of conduct" for US troops operating in the Philippines.

In the House, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. said the presence of US troops was permissible under the Constitution, because they were here for joint military exercises.

But Locsin urged the United States to be "forthright" about its reasons for being here—that the war games were an extension of its fight against the al-Qaida terrorist network of Osama bin Laden.

"I want to see something more definite coming from the US," Locsin said. "I think they should be forthright about it. I don't think they should do it in the pretext of military exercises."

But the AFP's Southern Command denied that the American forces would be involved in actual military operations against the bandit group.

Salonga declined to name the official who gave him the information on the logistics agreement.

Guingona

But last November, Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona announced that the Philippines and the United States were drafting a Mutual Logistics Support Agreement. The announcement came about a week after Department of Foreign Affairs officials disclosed that a draft MLSA allowed American personnel unlimited access to their former military bases in exchange for refurbished military equipment.

But President Macapagal, who was on a working visit to the United States at that time, told journalists covering her trip then that any security arrangements agreed on would not include the stationing of US troops in the Philippines. She added, "If I were to sign a secret agreement, would that be enforceable?"

She reiterated her stand during a visit to the INQUIRER last December, saying she won't allow US ground troops to be involved in the ongoing pursuit operations, she said. It's not only because it's unconstitutional. "It's also because it's this government's policy."

But Salonga, who said the presence of US troops in Basilan was "clearly" unconstitutional, accused the President of "somersaulting" on her no-to-US-ground-troops policy.

"It's all for the sake of that global war on terrorism," he said. "GMA needs money, she needs financial support," he said, implying that the Macapagal administration's total support for the US-led international coalition against terrorism was mainly measured in terms of material and financial objectives.

But the Americans also want a "tangible victory," he said. "They want an easy victory by coming to the Philippines"

CONFLICTING: Vice President Teofisto Guingona said in November that the Philippines and the United States were drafting a Mutual Logistics Support Agreement. But President Macapagal, then in the US, countered that any agreement would not include having US troops here. EDWIN BACASMAS

He lamented the impact the use of US troops will have on the AFP. "In my view, it will destroy the self-respect of the military," he said. "It may deprive the Philippine military of the necessary self-respect and the respect of our people (too)."

He also expressed concern that what happened in Vietnam, where a handful of US military advisers eventually brought in hundreds of thousands of US troops, would happen here.

"This is an internal problem. We wage our own battles," he said. Salonga was the Senate President in 1991, when the Senate voted to close the US bases.

Salonga conceded, however, that a rescue of the victims and the quashing of the bandit group would be "supported by most Filipinos."

Backlash

Recto said he was concerned about a possible backlash if the Balikatan exercises, which he described as a disguise to hide the US attempt to rescue the Burnham couple from the Abu Sayyaf, "goes under the CNN effect." The joint US-RP forces may win, but the action may draw the ire of the Muslim world.

"Worse, soldiers in pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf could be portrayed as merciless game hunters engaging in a 'turkey shoot' with troops coldly shooting at fleeing human targets," he added. He also cited the possibility of the Americans staying for the long haul, which would violate the transient nature of their tour of duty.

Biazon questioned the choice of the exercise areas.

"Having been a soldier for 34 years, 18 of which were spent in Mindanao, (I know that) joint field exercises such as this are governed by certain policies and practices," he said. He said that Zamboanga del Sur, where illegal armed groups have been known to operate, does not qualify as a non-hostile exercise area.

Rep. Padilla made much the same point. "But if this is a military exercise, why should they deploy the foreign forces where the Abu Sayyaf are operating?"

A joint military exercise should not be done in an area of conflict, he said.

Bayan Muna partylist Rep. Satur Ocampo said the presence of the US troops violated Article 18, Sec. 25 of the Constitution, which provides that no foreign military bases, troops or facilities would be allowed in the country without a treaty concurred in by the Senate or by a majority of votes cast in a national referendum.

Davao City Councilor Peter Laviña urged Davaoeños to be vigilant because of the possibility that the Davao International Airport would be used by US troops as a jump-off point, aside from the US-funded airport in Gen. Santos City.

"It may not necessarily be (for battle) but for medicines, logistics, or rest and recreation," he said.

Self-exiled communist leader Jose Maria Sison said the Abu Sayyaf bandit group was being used as an excuse for a "war of intervention and possibly a war of aggression" against the people of the Philippines and their revolutionary forces . . ."

Wilson Fortaleza, president of Sanlakas, warned that the exercise would further alienate the Moro people, who might see the arrival of the US troops as an invasion of their homeland.

"If the Moro people do not trust the AFP and the Philippine government, how much more the Americans?" Fortaleza said. ***With reports from Julie S. Alipala, Anthony S. Allada, Joel B. Escovilla, Ayan C. Mellejor and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau; and Gerald G. Lacuarta***

US expands military presence worldwide

(From page A1)

Already, American special forces are training armies across Africa, staging war games in the Middle East, and engaging soldiers in scores of joint training exercises from South America to Southeast Asia.

Even before Sept. 11, the US military had established a presence in 140 countries worldwide.

Now it is busy expanding—or considering expansion—not just in Afghanistan, where the war against accused terror mastermind Osama bin Laden is taking place, and neighboring Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

It also has made its presence felt in a slew of countries beyond: Armenia and Azerbaijan in Central Asia to Somalia in East Africa to the Philippines and Indonesia in Southeast Asia.

"Overall, the American military global presence is more pervasive today than at any point in American history," said John Pike, a military analyst in Washington.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has suggested a pullback in only one place—a cut of about one-third in Nato troops on peacekeeping duty in Bosnia.

Worrisome

The new reach of America's military is worrying some nations.

Iran is increasingly nervous about being encircled by countries with new US military ties, according to Judith Kipper, a Middle East expert in Washington.

China has long been worried about American power.

The US military presence worldwide will also fuel the anger of Islamic hardliners across Southwest Asia and the Middle East.

Bin Laden first targeted America when thousands of US troops who came to Saudi Arabia to fight the Gulf War stayed on to maintain regional security.

During his 2000 presidential campaign, Bush criticized his opponent, Al Gore, and the vice president's boss, President Bill Clinton, for overextending US military forces by intervening in places where vital US security interests were not at stake.

Yet a recent Pentagon paper identified vital American security interests in almost every part of the globe, with the notable exception of Africa.

Lesson

The Afghan campaign again has taught US officials that it pays to have relationships with countries, whether important or obscure, whom the United States may need tomorrow, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said recently.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, the United States moved quickly to strengthen ties with Pakistan so it could use Pakistani air bases.

It approached the former Soviet republics of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and reached deals to put air bases in both.

In return, those countries are expected to get valuable help with military training or access to equipment.

Countries like Singapore, where Navy ships dock, are getting a public linkage with America that might deter aggression, even if the United States makes no formal guarantee of military help.

The United States is also increasingly trying to position military equipment worldwide to lessen its dependence on cargo planes when trouble pops up, said Loren Thompson, an analyst at the Lexington Institute in Washington.

A recent Pentagon study proposed putting even more equipment in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean.

In some cases, as it courts a country's military forces, the United States is willing to set aside human rights or other problems.

Restrictions

US officials want to help Indonesia fight possible member clusters of Bin Laden's al-Qaida network, for example, but are under restrictions because of human rights abuses there, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz recently told The New York Times.

Those restrictions "really need to be reviewed in the light of Sept. 11," Wolfowitz said.

The United States doesn't trumpet much of the military cooperation. Uzbekistan, for example, is skittish that its role could anger Islamic hardliners and thus has pressed US officials to restrict news coverage.

Rumsfeld and his spokesperson, Victoria Clarke, have said that is a fair deal, in return for base access.

Saudi Arabia also doesn't talk about the thousands of US forces there. That trend will only grow as America's presence grows, according to Pike.

In both the Gulf and Central Asia, "a great deal is being done to downplay the thing," he added. *AP*

US military links around the globe

- AFRICA: US soldiers are training armies and military officers in several countries, trying to increase their professionalism and prevent human rights abuses.
- Australia: United States and Australia are cooperating in extensive joint training exercises. US ships visit Australian ports, and troops use Australian facilities for training.
- Europe: American troops are stationed at bases dating from the Cold War era. Nato alliance provides mutual security guarantee. Peacekeeping troops are in Bosnia and Kosovo. The United States also uses bases in Europe as hubs to supply forces farther afield, for example, in the Middle East.
- South America: US troops participate in joint training exercises and anti-drug efforts in many countries.
- Southeast Asia and the Pacific: Aircraft carrier groups patrol to ensure security of Japan and Taiwan. US troops are stationed in South Korea. US holds joint training exercises with Thailand. Singapore is a key supply point for the Navy, including recent new facility for US aircraft carriers. In the Philippines, US special forces are training and advising troops to fight the Abu Sayyaf, which is believed to have links with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.
- Southwest Asia, including the Middle East and the Gulf: Since the Gulf War, the United States has had bases, thousands of troops and/or equipment in countries including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates and Qatar. It runs annual training exercises with Egypt.
- Central and South Asia: Since the Afghan war began, the United States has set up bases in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. It has troops in Afghanistan and Pakistan, plus warships in the Gulf and Arabian Sea. It patrols flight-interdiction zones over Iraq from air bases in Turkey and the Gulf nations. It is seeking closer military ties with Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia. *AP*

32 dead in pro-Nur rally

(From page A1)

MNLF then led by Misuari and the government.

Julambri said Misuari's followers were demanding that their leader be brought to Jolo to stand trial on rebellion charges when the Marine soldier allegedly threw the grenade.

Misuari has been detained in Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, since last week after he was deported to the country from Malaysia. He is facing rebellion charges for allegedly leading attacks on an Army camp in Jolo last November.

Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, Army spokesperson, has a slightly different version of the events that led to the firefight.

Mabanta said the clash started at around 5:15 p.m. after Jolo policemen caught a Marine soldier observing the rally.

Civilians in the area mauled the Marine, who was said to be in civilian clothes.

When they heard about the incident, the victim's colleagues proceeded to the town proper.

Before reaching the site, they were ambushed along Marina Street by members of the Jolo police.

Julambri said an undetermined number of soldiers and civilians were brought to the Sulu Provincial Hospital for treatment while families living near the municipal hall evacuated for safety.

"It's still tense here. We're afraid that the situation could further deteriorate," she said.

In an interview last night, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said he was still trying to get a full report from Col. Romeo Tolentino, chief of the 104th Army Brigade based in Sulu.

Cimatu said he heard that a number of soldiers and civilians were killed, "but Colonel Tolentino is still undertaking the investigation how it happened and what's the real situation there. Let's just wait."

The Marines in Sulu were pulled out from the nearby Basilan Island just this month. The entire brigade of the Philippine Marines was redeployed to Sulu just this week because "nothing happened" to the rescue of the remaining hostages of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

INQUIRER Golf Monthly

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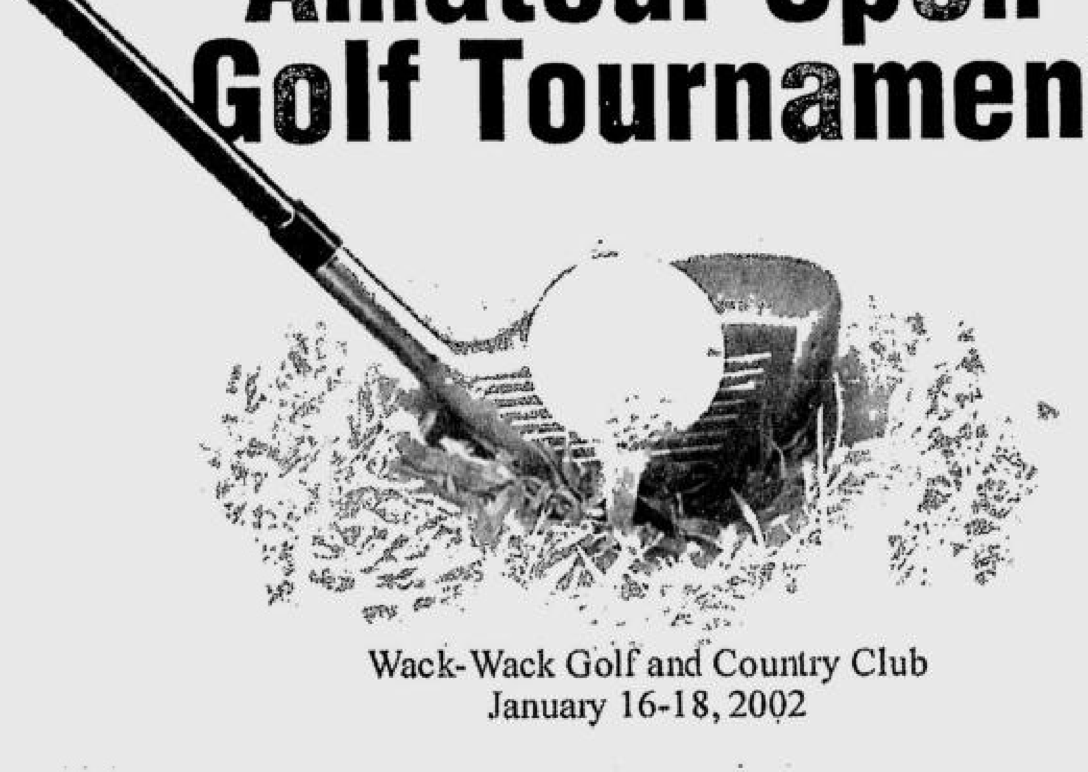


An Appeal to H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Remove the Single Biggest Obstacle to Progress: Pantaleon Alvarez.

Lead Us Toward Pro-Filipino Growth.

Dear Madame President,

We are starting a brand new year, Madame President – a fact that encourages us to submit to you this open letter for your much-awaited and all-important action. At the outset, allow us to state our appeal: The last thing our country and countrymen need is Transportation and Communications Secretary-Designate Pantaleon Alvarez. Kawawa ang Pilipino talaga.

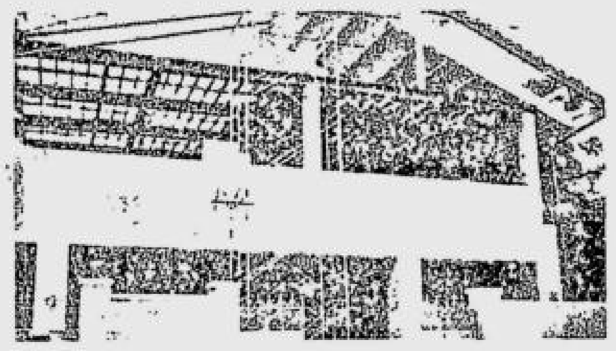
Alvarez: Your Government's Albatross

We respectfully submit, Madame President, that Mr. Alvarez has no place in your government, more so in a Department charged with developing the infrastructure for transportation and communications, which we so desperately need.

Your government, Madame President, has pledged to be transparent and forthright, **but Mr. Alvarez has withheld for so long from public knowledge the restated agreement that handed a monopoly to PIATCO. Worse, he lied to you several times in public when he said that Clark Airport would not be affected by the PIATCO deal.**

Your government has been praised for fiscal restraint, **but Mr. Alvarez continues to protect PIATCO, even if its project cost ballooned from US$350 million to US$650 million. To boot, it's the government of the Philippines which will pay for all the overruns at the end of the day.**

Your governance calls for protecting the interest of our country, above all else, **but Mr. Alvarez has allowed a foreign firm – Germany's Fraport – 70% controlling equity interest in PIATCO, delivering a vital service to aliens at the expense of our legitimate Filipino businessmen. This, by itself, is a constitutional violation.**



Controversial Mansion. This P30 million mansion of Mr. Alvarez is being constructed at a cost running into millions of pesos. Sources said this mansion is the "first fruit" of a fund raising campaign spearheaded by Mr. Alvarez for his "sponsor" and himself *(as commented on and reported by major newspapers).*

Your government's hallmark is one of honesty and prudent lifestyle, **but Mr. Alvarez is flaunting his newfound wealth – by building a P30 million mansion in Magallanes Village, whose builder is Wintrack Corporation, the same firm formerly (?) owned by Mr. Alvarez himself and awarded with a P300 million contract by PIATCO. Please compare this amount with Mr. Alvarez's net worth.**

Your government has given hope to the people of North and Central Luzon, **but Mr. Alvarez has refused to amend or renegotiate the PIATCO contract that exacts from the government a cruel fine of P380 for every additional passenger when the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport exceeds the passenger traffic volume of 850,000 for the next 25 years!**

Finally, you, Madame President, have conferred an admirable pro-people dimension to your watch, **but Mr. Alvarez has chosen to be anti-Filipino, anti-growth, and anti-change, all for the sake of his friends — Jeffrey Cheng, the Germans, and, of course, himself.**

Madame President, Mr. Pantaleon Alvarez is one big embarassment.
He has betrayed our trust several times.
He is all-too-willing to sell our country down the drain for his own financial benefit, and that of his friend.
He has proven to be the single biggest obstacle to the progress and development of our nation.
Mr. Alvarez was bypassed three times, for good reason, and no longer has the legitimate right to occupy the DOTC post.

Mr. Alvarez Should Be Jettisoned Once and for All.

Our signatures below, Madame President, show that we support you. But we cannot support your continued "support" for Mr. Alvarez who has made clear his anti-Filipino, anti-future and anti-people posture.

Alexander S. Caugulran
Chairman
Move Clark Now!

Benjamin P. Esteban
President (ACUPA)
Angeles Urban Poor

Filomeno S. Aslenga
President
PASADA (Angeles)

Susan Pineda
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Jose A. Pareja
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NNZO (Zambales)

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Rosemarie Herrera
Executive Director
PAMPANGO

Edwin Beltran
Administrative Officer
Social Action Center (SACOP)

Itang Pineda
Kilusan para sa Kagalingan ng Kababaihan (KKKA)

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Virgilio de Guzman
SALBA (Bataan)

Noel S. Gloria
SKB (Bataan)

Nieda S. Yamzon
KKKA (Angeles)

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Jess B. David
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Maria D. Lising
KKKA (Angeles)

May D. Lising
KKKA (Angeles)

Nina Saplala
CLACPI/(SLF)

Ghay Canelita
KKKA (Angeles)

John Zapata

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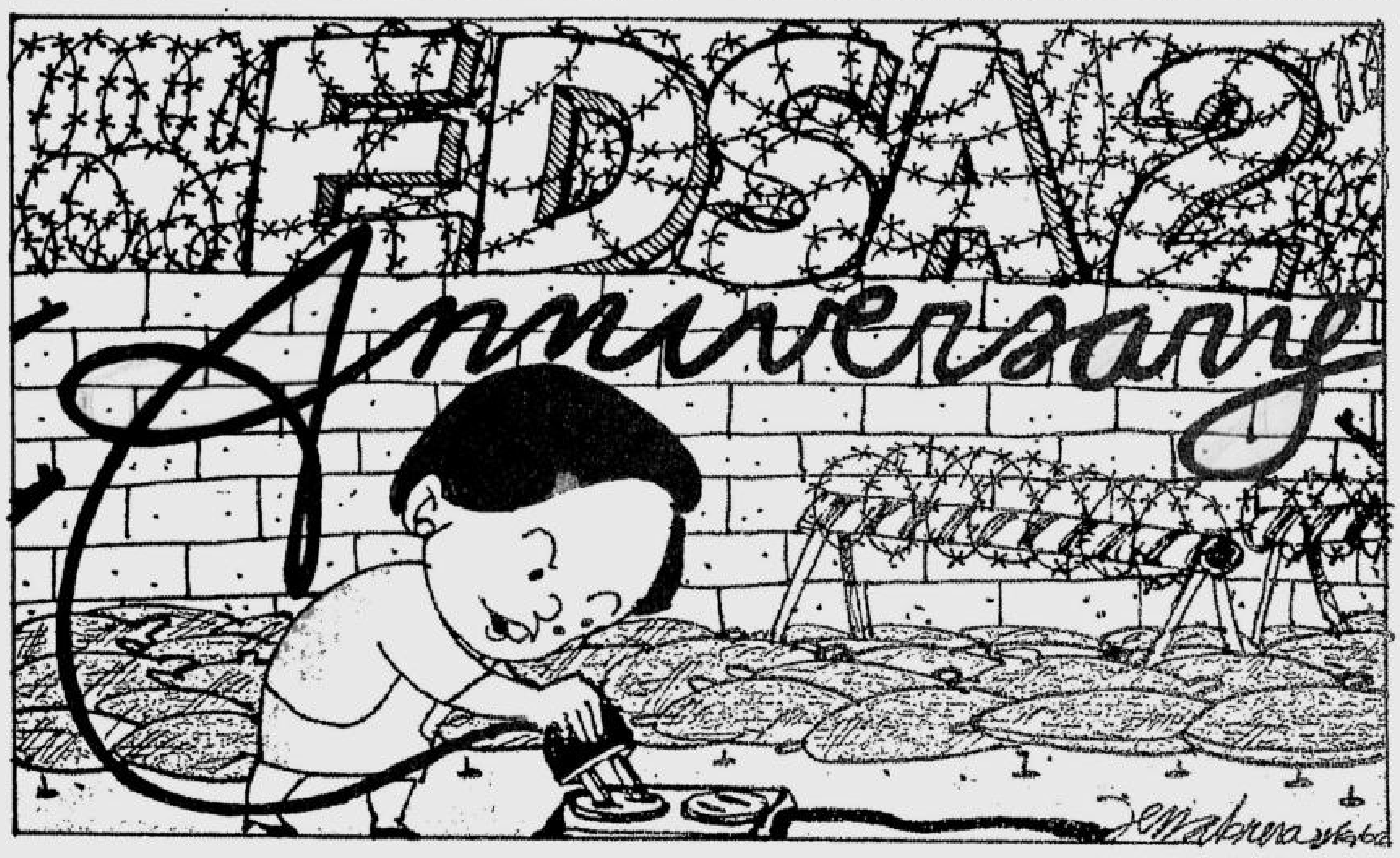

War

EDITORIAL

THE ADMINISTRATION is trying to play down the participation of American troops in the operations against the Abu Sayyaf as nothing out of the ordinary. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes calls it "realistic training" while Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao describes it as a "joint training exercise" of Filipino and American troops. The reality, however, is that there is a war being fought out there in the jungles of Basilan and the Americans have jumped into the fray.

The name of the exercise, which was started in 1981, remains, but everything else in "Balikatan 02-1" has changed, including the very nature of the "exercise." Where, for instance, the previous Balikatan rarely lasted for more than one month, this one will be carried out for at least six months, possibly one year or even longer. More significantly, its purpose is no longer just to hone the troops' fighting capabilities and skills, its objective is to kill and defeat the enemy. Reyes could not have put it more precisely: "In the course of this joint effort, we expect the Abu Sayyaf to be neutralized and the hostages recovered."

Reyes and Tiglao are careful to stress that the US troops, now numbering 660, will not actually engage in combat. The "guiding principle" of the whole exercise is that "combat operations will be conducted by Filipino troops," Reyes said. "We don't want American troops directly engaged in combat."

It is difficult to imagine how that can be managed. The Americans will be out there in the field of battle, right behind the Filipino soldiers. The agreement calls for them to fire back if they are fired upon. Are the self-styled *mujahideen* belonging to the Abu Sayyaf perhaps expected to lay down their arms or turn tail the moment they see a white face? If not, there is no way the Americans can be kept away from fighting once they come face to face with the kidnappers who continue to hold hostage two Americans and a Filipina.

No matter how much administration officials try to stretch the meaning of the word, this isn't training. This isn't a military exercise. This isn't a war game. This is war. And the Americans will again be fighting openly on Philippine soil for the first time since the Japanese invaders were driven away toward the end of World War II.

It wasn't very long ago when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo rejected the idea of allowing American troops to fight the Abu Sayyaf. During her visit to the White House last November, US President Bush asked her if she wanted US troops. She declined the offer, but told him US military advice, equipment and logistic support would be most welcome. Ms Macapagal would tell reporters later that she had to refuse not only because accepting the troops would have violated the Constitution but also because it was her government's policy.

Obviously, she has turned that policy around. And there can only be one reason for this: She has given up on the Armed Forces of the Philippines. She can no longer count on it to crush even a ragtag army consisting of a couple of hundred fighters. And who can blame her? The hostage crisis has dragged on for seven months and the end is still nowhere in sight. What have come and gone with embarrassing regularity were the deadlines imposed by the military on itself to wipe out the enemy or at least free their hostages from captivity.

But while the President can change her administration's policy, she is duty-bound to follow the law. The Constitution is clear: No foreign troops, bases or facilities shall be allowed on Philippine soil except through a treaty ratified by the Senate and recognized as such by the foreign country. There is no treaty allowing US troops to come into the country, much less take part in military operations against bandits, secessionists or terrorists.

The war against the Abu Sayyaf is a war that must be won, and won soon. But in its prosecution, the administration cannot set aside the Constitution.

Tactical battles

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE TACTICAL battles being waged against Osama bin Laden and the Mullah Mohammed Omar could risk becoming a boomerang for the Bush administration.

America has no alternative—pursuit of what remains of al-Qaida is the only way to minimize the risk of new terrible attacks against the United States and the West.

Bin Laden and Omar are playing cunningly with their shadows. They know the game fosters their myth among fundamentalists and touches raw American nerves.

Gen. Tommy Franks, the taciturn commander of operation "Enduring Freedom," is shrewdly responding to the challenge with the weapon of silence: Not one more word on where the most-wanted could be until they are caught.

La Stampa (Turin, Italy)

Nur Misuari has a new army

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

NUR Misuari has a new army, and it is more dangerous than his dwindling army of MNLF fighters. It is an army of lawyers to handle his defense in his trial for rebellion and malversation of public funds. The members are not as *de campanilla* as the lawyers of former President Estrada who include two former Supreme Court justices and one former senator. But what Misuari's defense team lacks in *campanillas*, he makes up for in quantity. He has, as of last count, 21 lawyers and eight law firms. At the Kapihan sa Sulo forum last Saturday, the small function room overflowed with people mainly because there were so many more lawyers, Misuari's lawyers. Afterwards, the hotel lobby not only overflowed but was also noisy because the lawyers moved there. Put two lawyers in a room and it immediately becomes noisy, what more if there were 21 of them, all talking at the same time.

Misuari's new not-so-secret weapon is an all-volunteer army attracted to his banner because of the publicity that he always generates. One of them is even based in the United States and has no license to practice here. But no matter. The team has more than enough lawyers licensed to practice in the Philippines.

So, is the prosecution team led by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño worried? Naaah! A prosecutor confidently said that they already have an effective tactic to neutralize Misuari's defense team. "Just deny them publicity and they will wither on the vine," he said.

But how can you deny them publicity when there are so many eager-beaver media people who make *patol* any crazy criticism of the Macapagal administration? They don't care what their subjects say, anyway. As a public relations handler of the team said, "Don't pay attention to what they say. Just get their names right."

* * *

The government has really gagged not only Misuari but also former President Estrada. Last Saturday, a group of journalists were invited by the latter to his detention suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City for an interview. Because of the coming first anniversary of his fall from power and the destabilization plots against the Macapagal administration being blamed on him and his cohorts, we thought it was timely to interview him. There were so many interesting questions crying to be asked of him, like what he thinks of the Macapagal administration after one year (we could already surmise what he would say) or whether or not he could stand being in the same detention cell with Misuari day in and day out.

But those questions will remain unanswered in the meantime because Erap's police guards refused to allow us to even go near his suite, although we had a written permission from him and from somebody who was supposed to have the authority to do so.

"You have to get a permit from the chief PNP (that's Director General Leandro Mendoza) or from the task force commander," said the sergeant in charge of the security detail.

"Can't we just phone him?" we asked.

"No," replied the sergeant. "How would I know who is talking at the other end? For all I know, it could be Willie Nepomuceno.

"I need a permit in writing so that if we are called to account for allowing you to talk to him, we have something to show for our protection," he said.

Good enough for us and so we gave up. And so history will never know what Erap was thinking about on Jan. 12, 2002.

Will the police be as strict with Misuari regarding access to the media as it is with Erap?

* * *

Chair Benjamin Abalos had another brainstorm that landed him with two stories, plus a mug shot in color, on the front page of the INQUIRER's Metro section yesterday.

In the headline story, Abalos said traffic enforcers will "strictly enforce traffic rules and regulations" on bus drivers, "at five major intersections on Metro Manila's premier highway" (that's Edsa). These intersections are Edsa-Taft, Edsa-Guadalupe, Edsa-Shaw Boulevard, Edsa-Ortigas and Edsa-Aurora Boulevard.

But why only in these five intersections? How about other intersections or other streets elsewhere? Shouldn't the police be strictly enforcing traffic rules at all times everywhere? Does that mean traffic enforcement will be lax in other intersections?

And why only against bus drivers? What about jeepney drivers and drivers of private vehicles? Does that mean the latter will not get the same attention from traffic enforcers as the bus drivers?

Anyway, I would like to see the yellow boxes in these five intersections free of vehicles at all times. No vehicle is supposed to be caught by the red light inside these yellow boxes. Even if the light is green, no vehicle is supposed to enter it unless the other side is clear so that it doesn't block that intersection. Fully 99 percent of drivers don't even understand what these yellow boxes mean. And most likely even the traffic enforcers themselves. I wish Abalos' enforcers will use this newfound zeal to educate the drivers.

The other Abalos story yesterday is the announcement that the Rodriguez "landfill" will be open to receive Metro Manila's garbage starting tomorrow. Just for accuracy, I think the place is an "open dump" and not a "sanitary landfill." There is a world of difference between the two.

The other implication of this is that Abalos disregarded the request of Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte to distribute Metro's garbage to other dumps so that Commonwealth Avenue, the Batasan Road (where the House of Representatives and Sandiganbayan stand) and Litex Road will not be overwhelmed by an additional 900 garbage trucks every day taking their odorous loads to the Rodriguez dump.

But where are the people?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE FORTIFICATIONS are much in evidence. As the celebration of the first anniversary of Edsa II draws near, Malacañang is busy turning its gates into an impregnable barrier. There are no sandbags, emblems of a bygone era, when Malacañang lay in a state of siege, but there are some uncomfortable reminders. Barbed wire is strung in the checkpoint at J.P. Rizal. The iron bars of gates look stouter, and the railings are spiked on top. Electrical wires have been dug into concrete to make an electrical fence.

On the grounds, cops are going through the rounds of defending themselves against an imaginary mob, the front row planting their shields on the ground and the back rows raising them above their heads in unison while someone barks orders. All this is apparently in preparation for a possible repeat of the May 1 riots in Mendiola.

Elsewhere, the Philippine National Police has announced it will deploy 10,000 troops over Metro Manila. This is to make sure, Gen. Edgardo Aglipay says, that no one disrupts the peace during the Edsa celebrations. With the threats of another people power, a coup and acts of terrorism coming variously from pro-Erap forces and disgruntled former supporters of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, from paramilitary organizations and from supporters of jailed Muslim dissident, Nur Misuari, says Aglipay, the PNP is taking no chances.

He adds that they have required groups that plan to hold rallies during the Edsa II anniversary to get permits first. No permit, no rally. He warns potential troublemakers to drop their plots as they would run into the full might of the law.

Well, there is nothing wrong with taking precautions. Truly, with various groups rattling sabers, you would be a fool not to think some of those sabers would not be unsheathed. Better prepared than sorry, as the saying goes. Or as I myself like to say, better paranoid than dead. There's nothing wrong with anticipating the worst and being happy when it doesn't happen.

But there is also such a thing as too much show of force. Sanlakas has a point when it says fielding 10,000 cops across Metro Manila is "OA." It is. That kind of size does not just suggest defense, it also suggests offense. It does not just suggest protection, it also suggests aggression. A group like that does not conjure images of cops shielding themselves from flying rocks and stones, it conjures images of cops and their "assets" bludgeoning arrestees in the head with truncheons and kicking them when they crumple to the ground, as happened during the May 1 riots. I remember being in Channel 7 that morning when they flashed those images on the screen. We were all horrified by it.

Quite apart from that, there is the not insignificant matter of what we are celebrating this week. The overreaction beams a wrong message to the public.

What we are celebrating today is People Power, the second time it was displayed miraculously in this country. It is a joyous occasion, and one that should draw out festiveness and revelry. It is one that should show government to rest securely in the arms of its people—or, to borrow an image the activists used to use, to thrive among the masses like fish in water. Taken singly, none of government's formidable security measures means much. Taken together, they suggest a distrust, if not a fear, of the very thing that put it in power, which is the people. Coming as this does only after government's first year of existence, it is not a reassuring turn of events. It certainly offers little cause for festiveness and revelry.

I have no doubt that there are groups that are ferociously critical of Ms Macapagal because they have a personal agenda. I have no doubt that there are groups that are trying to discredit Ms Macapagal in time for the 2004 elections, if not remove her before her time is up by fretful displays of mass restiveness or even by another Edsa if that can be mustered. And I have no doubt that there are groups that are toying with the possibility of a coup, or at least with acts of sabotage to suggest a country in the throes of instability. But a government that has come to being through a direct expression of the sovereign will of the people and continues to enjoy it should have no cause to worry about them. Certainly it should have no cause to show a state-of-siege mentality.

But the critical phrase there is "continues to enjoy that sovereign will." People power is both a gift and a curse to its beneficiary. What the people can give by a direct expression of their will, they can take by a direct expression of their will. The beneficiary of people power, unlike an elected leader, must renew her mandate again and again. There is no distinction between legal and moral here: Her legal claim to power rests on moral grounds. Like an appointive official who exists at the sufferance of her appointer, the beneficiary of people power exists at the sufferance of the people. The demands on her are epic because the very thing that brought her to power is epic.

Has Ms Macapagal lived up to those demands? Has she reaffirmed her bonds with the people who brought her to power? Does she continue to enjoy the mandate of people power? Well, her efforts to secure herself in these epic levels must suggest not very happy answers to those questions. A leader who knows the people are behind her will not worry about the groups that are out to oust her simply because she knows the people themselves will thwart it. The reason the coup attempts against Cory Aquino took place was not just the capability of the coup plotters, it was also Cory's failure to live up to her promise of being the opposite of Marcos. Only a fool will think to mount a coup against a government the people patently love and support.

This week, we celebrate People Power II. But as in Cory's time, we are compelled to say: Power, yes, but where are the people?

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Can a synthetic People Power replication work?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

MASS organizations which coalesced in 2000-2001 in the Estrada resign movement and those which were identified with the mob attack on May 1, 2001, are going back to the streets in the run-up to the first anniversary on Jan. 20 of the fall of former President Estrada's administration.

They are going back to the streets for different reasons, but some of them share the common objective of seeking to topple the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo by creating a synthetic People Power IV. Former allies of Ms Macapagal, like the retired generals who were outspoken against Estrada, the Philippine Consultative Assembly and Left-wing organizations are going to celebrate Jan 20 by expressing their disaffection with the administration they helped install to power.

Jan. 20, is the day for People Power II forces, but pro-Estrada forces, mainly the People's Movement Against Poverty, are observing the event with a series of demonstrations by revisiting signposts marking the road of Estrada's fall from power. The retired generals, shadowy groups in the military and the PCA are fuelling talks of a coup d'état, and some are even embracing the idea of a civilian-military junta to replace the Macapagal administration.

What I find incongruous about these attempts to recreate another people power is rebuilding a mass movement through a synthetic replication of the elements of People Power I and People Power II, and even People Power III, out of conditions that fuel successful street demonstrations. To begin with, there is no widespread unrest, anger against a sitting government and escalating rallies that drove the momentum of People Power I and II. There is no consuming issue that drives the people to rage—such as the massive corruption of both the Marcos and Estrada regimes, the murderous human rights atrocities of the Marcos regime and the gross incompetence of the Estrada administration.

True, there are allegations of corruption hurled at the Macapagal administration, but they are wanting in proof; and, in fact, because there is no proof, the attacks on the government have shifted to the charges that the President is politicking too much to win points for reelection in 2004, subordinating public interest to her reelection ambitions.

Every president of this country, since Emilio Aguinaldo, with the possible exception of President Corazon Aquino, wanted to lengthen his stay in power. This is a healthy ambition because it provides incentives to deliver results. This ambition becomes dangerous if a sitting president seeks to extend his stay in office in contravention of the constitutional ban, and it is curious that the PCA head, Salvador Enriquez, former President Fidel V. Ramos' budget secretary, is the most virulent in the criticism against Ms Macapagal's politicking.

Ramos went to the extent of trying to change the Constitution so he could stand for reelection. Enriquez needs more than sweeping allegations that Ms Macapagal's politicking had prejudiced public interest, thereby justifying her removal by a coup d'état and replacement with a civilian-military junta. It must be shown what public interest has been sacrificed.

The disgruntled groups which were former allies of Ms Macapagal in the broad coalition to oust Estrada have not found a cementing issue against this administration. They will be sharing the streets in the commemoration of Edsa II with pro-Estrada groups, and there's nothing in common between them. Jan. 20 is not the day for the Estrada cohorts. Their day is May 1, but they can't wait. But like the disgruntled former allies of Ms Macapagal, they are all interested in stirring up discontent, in the vain hope that the genie of people power will reawaken and recompose into People Power IV. They are indulging in wishful thinking.

While there are allegations of corruption in the Macapagal administration, it requires credible evidence to drive people to the streets, cause the Army to make a soul-searching of whether to remain loyal to a venal government, and erode public confidence in government strategic sectors of society. The Singson exposé, which produced serious evidence leading to the impeachment trial of Estrada, provided the fuse that triggered the fall of his administration.

This is the kind of proof I am talking about that could spark another people power—not just reckless allegations hurled by disgruntled groups which like to think they have been commissioned by God to unseat the government, whose expectations for reform have been disappointed. Some civil society groups may have initiated the Erap resign movement with the exclamation mark campaign, but the drive fizzled out and the movement did not take off until serious proof of corruption was disclosed by Chavit Singson.

This fuse cannot be invented by recreating laboratory conditions simulating people power. Army intervention follows only the appearance of evidence of mass discontent and demonstrations. Recruitment in the Army for the support of civilian malcontents and their messianic causes is nothing new. What is important is whether soldiers will switch allegiance on the basis of unfounded and reckless allegations from groups who have felt unrewarded by the government they helped install.

The record shows that the Macapagal administration's performance is far from inspiring or impressive. There is widespread disenchantment with her, as well as with legislators, both in the majority and in the opposition, as shown by recent public opinion polls. These are hard times; many expect miracles, but results do not happen by perpetuating the habit of changing governments musical chairs-style.

My impression is that there is no objective condition upon which a coup or People Power IV will succeed, and this is not to say that President Macapagal should not lift her game. If, by a remote chance, another people power topples a government in a space of one year, this country will sink back to a deeper hole than it found itself in December 2001 and all the meager economic gains (3-percent GDP growth) will just evaporate.

Intelligence failure

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—The story is told that when more than 40 Americans were taken hostage by Iranian militants in the late '70s, then President Jimmy Carter upbraided the Central Intelligence Agency and other intelligence agencies in the US government for their failure to monitor what was going on in Iran, which was at the throes of political transition. Apparently, Carter deplored the fact that all the intelligence-gathering being done by these agencies was essentially electronic, missing the more important "human" dimension. The intelligence apparatus had become so dependent on electronic techniques. What Carter bewailed even more was the fact that the most fluent Farsi language expert in the State Department had also been taken hostage! I recall having met her while I was a graduate student in Cornell, and her name, if memory serves me right, is Elizabeth Swift. It must have been the utmost in political humiliation for Carter. How could this happen to the most powerful nation on earth! To add insult to injury, several military men who were on a mission to rescue the hostages crashed in a helicopter, killing all of them. When it rains, it pours.

This failure of intelligence among US agencies would happen again at a much more serious level on Sept. 11 of the year past. This time, while President George W. Bush unleashed his war on terrorism, CIA chief George Tenet similarly unleashed a memo castigating the "turf wars" in the American intelligence establishment. Again, America's leaders were incredulous: how could this happen to the now only superpower on earth with the most sophisticated hardware for intelligence gathering! There were indications here and there, especially after the first bombing of one of the World Trade Center twin towers in 1993, but no thorough follow-through. "We didn't know where" was one of the lame excuses after the fact. Another excuse was, "We wish we had paid more attention."

New York Times reporter James Risen summarized Tenet's strongly worded memo titled "We're at War" in hindsight, indicating that the CIA, Federal Bureau of Investigation and other intelligence agencies had fragments of information that "under ideal circumstances could have provided some warning if they all had been pieced together and shared rapidly."

What this meant in effect was that territorial positions and egos in the cumbersome jungles of the bureaucracy had gotten in the way. Coordination was simply not there. A senior intelligence official, of course on hindsight, said that if one sifted through the voluminous "reports" before Sept. 11, it was clear that there were "some things that should have rung bells a little bit louder." Risen also reported that officials familiar with intelligence said that the CIA got a series of intercepted communications and other indications that al-Qaida might be planning a major operation. Such indications clearly showed increased al-Qaida movements and activities. "But the timing and location of any attack were unclear," concluded the operatives. The usual cop-out. In fact, toward the end of June or July in 2001, there was a "real heightened danger" of something catastrophic happening.

The Osama bin Laden videotape, which was broadcast to the Western world from the Middle East sometime later, also raised new questions about why US intelligence agencies failed to uncover the plot before Sept. 11. In this tape, Bin Laden said he knew six days in advance about the days and timing of the hijackings, and likewise that there would be multiple airplane strikes by the hijackers. He was also quoted as telling his followers, "Be patient," after the first tower was hit. Evidently, he also knew the hijacking teams and how they were intentionally kept apart to avoid suspicion and detention. He referred to Mohamed Atta, the Egyptian leader of the plot, as "Mohamed." That tape left many questions unanswered even as it raised new ones.

Another New York Times journalist, David Johnston, reported that the al-Qaida communications network, though heavily monitored by American intelligence, succeeded in circumventing the electronic eavesdropping arrayed against Bin Laden and his followers. "It also suggested that if Bin Laden could receive information from the hijackers, he was also able to communicate his instructions to them without alerting authorities."

A senior intelligence official has also said that Bin Laden's prior knowledge of the timing of the multiple attacks has led intelligence agencies to reexamine the information collected a week before to determine whether they missed a "coded signal" sent to Afghanistan. Did Bin Laden outwit everybody?

Of relevance to the Philippines here is the fact that one of the 1993 bombers of the World Trade Center, Ramzi Yousef, was found in Manila with a co-conspirator but was able to escape to Pakistan before being extradited to the United States. He was sentenced in 1998 to life in prison, admitting to being a "terrorist" and referring to Americans as "bloodsuckers" and "terrorists" as well for bombing Hiroshima and imposing sanctions on Iraq.

If only the intelligence function had followed this development more closely and tightly, the Sept. 11 disaster might have been averted. There was a lead right there, but in typical bureaucratic fashion compounded by the inevitable turf wars and hassles in the intelligence community, they missed the boat.

And the world waits for another possible failure in human intelligence. We can only hope that it can be averted in time to save lives, and that intelligence would come in foresight rather than hindsight.

Belinda A. Aquino writes from the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

Letter to Ms GMA

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DEAR Ms President,

Doro (PDI consultant/columnist Amando Doronila) may have thought he was flattering the participants in last Saturday's "Philippine Forum" by making us stand for the country's "urban middle class." But we much prefer what you said was our "nickname": The Successor Generation.

Right now, though, we don't feel much like succeeding anything or anyone, especially not the leadership of this country. There is a general malaise that has washed over our ranks. But during the after-dinner discussion, it was pointed out that we really have no choice. Deserved or not, we ARE the successor generation, if only because of our age and our circumstances. Leadership in various sectors—public service, business, the academe, media and entertainment, civil society, churches, the arts—has fallen or will soon fall into our laps, ready or not.

At the start of our meeting, the forum's president, Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas, pointed out that you are the first President of the country who was born "a free Filipino." All other Presidents before you had been born before the War, when we were still under colonial rule. As a member of what has been called the "Baby Boom" generation, you are part of the cohort that, by sheer number, has set trends and fashions, be it rock-'n'-roll, bell-bottom jeans, the sexual revolution or middle-aged cocooning.

All of which those of us born in the 1950s and '60s have had no choice but to follow. Doro was right when he said we are your "natural allies." Which is why it was so telling that you should fail to move even us with your cheery and confident recitation of statistics that in your view testify to the economic health of the country.

* * *

IN THE FIRST place, there was no need to rattle off the figures, since your audience didn't really need to hear them all over again. By this time they should be familiar with the rosy projections. And if the economy is doing so well, as you say, that audience would not have needed any convincing, given that for most, keeping a close watch on the economy is part of the job.

Which is how you blew your speech. Given the mood and temper of the times, an early and maybe even premature descent from the highs of January 2001, you could have begun with an honest admission that these are not the best of times. You could have pointed out that despite the high hopes that attended your historic ascension to power, stubborn problems and challenges remain. And then, most important, you could have told us, who despite our blue funk remain cautious optimists and civic-minded citizens, what we could do to help you and your government.

But even if you gave the speech that, in our collective imagination, might have moved us, I doubt if it would have lifted the gloom into which not just our moods, but the national disposition have fallen under.

* * *

"MAYBE it's a failure of communication," was a refrain throughout the assembly. We want to believe you when you say you have devoted the next two or so years to the upliftment of the poor who so dramatically made their anger and misery known to you last May. We want to believe that you are holding true to your promise of efficient governance and honesty and accountability among officials.

But most of all, we want to be inspired. We want to feel that it is worth the aggravation to care about this country, that there is a larger cause that warrants our putting aside our selfish interests to work alongside each other. We felt such a rush of feeling, propelled no doubt by disgust at the antics of the past administration, in the latter part of 2000 and in January last year. What a shock and disappointment, in fact, to find the "high" dissipating so soon. And worse, to discover that we don't really care.

Some months ago, some friends and I were talking about you and we said that we are finding you "less and less charming" as the days go by. The media have taken note of your short temper, a failing you readily admit to. But even worse, you have come across as cold and remote, abrupt and unfeeling. A Malaysian journalist, listening to our griping, pointed out that you have proven yourself an astute politician, having won an unprecedented 13 million votes when you ran for vice president. "She must have been communicating well with the masses then," he pointed out.

Yes, and the truly sad thing is that you should lose that "touch" just when you and our country need it most.

* * *

EVEN as we took turns taking potshots at your speech, I remembered a conversation I had with a friend. We were talking about the Harry Potter books and she said she was particularly struck by the "Mirror of Erised," which reflects back a person's "heart's desire." Some people, according to the Wizard Dumbledore, have wasted their lives away before the mirror, mesmerized by the vision of their dreams made "real," forgetting that it is only an illusion.

By harping on the kind of leadership we want but can't seem to get, might not we be mesmerized by our own "Mirror of Erised?" We've had a president who was both charismatic and an excellent communicator, but incompetent and corrupt. Now we have a President who is eminently competent and efficient, but comes across as cold and unfeeling.

We want to believe it's time we took our and the nation's destiny in our own hands. But we can't work up the fervor. After all is said and done, it is the leadership that sets the tone and sounds the clarion call. We are your foot soldiers, but how can we hear the notes and start marching, when we have stopped listening or caring?

Sokor president apologizes over mounting scandals

NEWS ANALYSIS

Zeno Park

SEOUL—President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea on Monday made an unprecedented display of atonement for corruption scandals rocking his administration as another top official quit.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner made three apologies during a five-minute statement read at the start of a nationally televised New Year news conference.

"First of all, I would like to start by offering words of apology to the nation," Kim said at the start of his statement, with most of his top ministers present.

The government has been rocked by three major scandals surrounding lobbying and bribes given by high-tech venture firms.

They have caused the arrest or resignation of a dozen top finance, intelligence agency, government and presidential officials in recent months. South Korea's top prosecutor Shin Seung-nam quit early Monday after his brother was arrested over one of the scandals.

The president, who has sought to nurture new businesses during his term, said he had been stunned by the cases which have further undermined his image after the collapse of attempts to reconcile with communist North Korea.

Kim, 76, is in his final year of a five-year term and cannot stand for election again.

"I can only feel great shock and above all sorrow toward the public. I am strongly determined to take this opportunity to clear all corruption, with myself at the frontline, to sternly handle and cast full light on these cases," he said.

"I am sorry for corruption involving senior officials and even former and current presidential staff," the president said before ending his declaration with a third apology "for the implication of some venture funds in the corruption scandals."

> The president, who has sought to nurture new businesses during his term, said he had been stunned by the cases which have further undermined his image after the collapse of attempts to reconcile with communist North Korea

President Kim said he would accept the resignation of Shin, the prosecutor general, who quit after his brother was arrested on charges of taking bribes from a businessman at the center of one of the scandals.

The head of state also said a special team of "neutral" prosecutors would investigate all the corruption cases.

"I have been distracted too much by the daily outbreak" of scandals, he added when asked about his political plans for the year.

Kim said despite the troubles he would devote himself to attempts to reviving the economy and ensuring the success of the football World Cup, to be held in South Korea and Japan in June.

The ruling Democratic Millennium Party accused the opposition and news media of deliberately tarnishing a government which is generally considered less corrupt than the past military-backed regimes.

But the scandals risk casting a dark shadow over the president's legacy, which he had wanted to be dominated by his lauded attempts to bring peace with communist North Korea.

Kim won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000 following a landmark inter-Korean summit with the North's leader Kim Jong-il in June that year.

Allegations of corruption have been growing in recent weeks.

On Wednesday, chief government spokesman Park Joon-young resigned and was later questioned by prosecutors investigating a high-tech venture businessman accused of paying bribes to politicians and officials in a bid to manipulate the share price of his firm.

Park had been Kim's chief spokesperson until September. He has admitted having met the businessman involved, Yoon Tae-shik, but has denied taking any bribes.

Even Kim Sung-nam, a lawyer, withdrew from his appointment to head a presidential commission against corruption last week after he was linked to a Yoon scandal.

Prosecutors are investigating suspicions that Yoon funneled about two billion won ($1.5 million) in kickbacks to politicians and government officials in return for business favors. *AFP*

THEY SAID

Stomach measure

"I would die anyway with an empty stomach so I might as well die with a full stomach."

—Firecracker-maker Rosa Valenzuela commenting on her 20-year-old job

What to do?

"What can we do about it? Do we go in and cause the deaths of the hostages? Certainly not."

—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon on the hostage crisis' effect to the country's image abroad

Maritime reputation

"It is ironic that while the Philippines supplies the biggest share of seafarers in the world maritime industry, we have produced some of the worst maritime accidents."

—Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez on seeking reforms in the maritime industry

Education or land

"Education may be prioritized for legislative or budgetary purposes, but we doubt if such importance can be used to confiscate private property, such as Firestone's right of first refusal."

—The Supreme Court's Second Division, speaking through Senior Associate Justice Josue Bellosillo, on its decision to strip the Polytechnic University of the Philippines of its rights over a three-hectare land in Sta. Mesa, Manila

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Money laundering law not acceptable

THERE are reports that the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is not entirely pleased with the money laundering law recently passed by Congress. If this is true, it could well be that this law is riddled with loopholes our legislators have provided for the clever and the well-connected to use as escape routes. In which case, this would be a useless law because the likely money-launderers will certainly be clever and well-connected.

It is not beneath our Congress to pass laws that would restrain wrongdoing by the average citizen but are impotent when applied to the influential. Our present banking laws seem to be intended more to keep the government from looking into what irregularities can attend the operations of a bank. The account of Jose Velarde, a non-existent person, if the denial of former Joseph Estrada is to be believed, is somehow protected by law if Estrada's lawyers' arguments are to be accepted.

The 1987 Constitution is not spared the propensity for double-talk by even the framers of the Constitution. This Constitution has an article that at first was proposed to bar lawmakers from being involved in cases where the government is a litigant. This provision was reworded to read that the lawmakers may not "appear in person" in cases involving the government. The provision has been rendered useless that it may as well have been entirely removed and the Constitution improved by the reduction of its verbosity.

In the matter of the moeny laundering law, we may have the problem of getting the FATF to swallow the garbage we are feeding it.—**E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philmalife Village, Las Piñas City**

LETTERS

Truly tiresome and boring

FOR THE MORAL guidance of the faithful, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has declared that the battle scenes in the film "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" can tire adults and give nightmares to children.

If the CBCP is genuinely concerned about the deleterious effects of tiring adults, it should turn its vigilance to something over which it has greater control—the Sunday sermons of priests, which can be infinitely more boring and tiresome than the depiction of orcs and wizards.—**J.S. ONG 13 San Mateo, Barrio Capitolyo, Pasig City**

RP aviation must be ready to compete

IN CONNECTION with the column of Conrado R. Banal on Jan. 8, titled the "Weakest blink," let me raise the following questions:

- Why blame the grant of more landing rights to Korean Airlines for the poor performance of Philippine Airlines during the *balikbayan* season?
- Was it wrong for Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez to consider trade and tourism promotion in his decision to grant additional air rights to Korean Airlines? Have we forgotten our sad experience with the Taiwanese government involving almost the same transaction?
- Was it not the prerogative of the President to constitute a panel to negotiate with Korean Airlines, to determine the composition of the panel and to designate its head?
- Why blame Alvarez for the problems that PAL is encountering after the Sept. 11 incident?

I believe that giving more access to foreign airlines, like what Alvarez did, actually prepares our aviation industry for global competition while promoting trade and tourism. Protecting the same from external competitors will be a big disservice to the industry itself. We must now be ready for the onslaught of foreign competition in all our economic undertakings otherwise, *"baka maiwan tayo sa pansitan."*—**ISAGANI F. YUZON, 2153 Pasong Tamo, Makati City**

Movie to get a migraine by

THE STATEMENTS of Joel Lamangan in the column of Leah Salterio last Dec. 12, 2001, titled "Lamangan cries unfair" were full of loopholes and inconsistencies.

He made a wild accusation describing me as judgmental. For his information, I made an honest assessment of his insulting, boring and sadistic film which in the first place should not have been allowed in the Metro Manila Film Festival.

He says, "Any subject can be turned into a movie by an artist as long as it reflects a certain truth, especially if the truth serves the interest of the majority, which this movie ('Hubog') does."

A real artist has *delicadeza*, integrity, cannot be seduced by fame and fortune, elegance, decorum, does what is right, inspires, preserves the family and has faith in God.

What truth does his movie "Hubog" teach us? That it is all right to use foul language in public? That gambling at wakes and violence—including physically abusing a woman—are okay? Any well-educated individual will surely suffer a migraine after watching his film.

What interest of the majority is he talking about? We cannot consider this film a work of art. Ridiculous! It is not entertaining and extremely violated the actresses by exposing them to nudity and sex.

If there are lessons that the film touches on, they are exploitation, abuse and greed. Not worthwhile lessons to learn and not worth watching.—**ALDO P. FILOMENO, spokesperson, Philippine Alliance Against Pornography, 45 Mahogany St., Pleasant Hill, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan**

Stop building the San Roque Dam in Pangasinan

THE SAN Roque Multi-Purpose Dam Project (SRMDP) is a $1.19-billion project and will be the 12th largest in the world, the highest dam in Asia, and the third largest dam to be built on the Agno River.

The SRMDP is a massive flood control and irrigation undertaking in the towns of Pangasinan in Central Luzon and Benguet in the Cordillera. The flood control alone will affect 150,000 residents living in 39,504 hectares classified as watershed areas in the municipalities of San Nicolas and San Miguel in Pangasinan and Tuba and Itogon, in Benguet, displace thousands of households, dislocate Ibaloy communities (weakening their traditional values) and wipe out more than a thousand hectares of farmlands and fishponds. And due to "watershed protection," the watershed is subjected to various land-use restrictions and prohibitions on land clearing, farming, animal grazing, gathering of forest products and small-scale mining.

The environmental damage from the project will come from seawater intrusion into farmlands and drinking water, flooding of wide areas due to direct inundation and siltation.

Contrary to the government's claim, the dam is not designed to function as a "guardian of water quality." It will serve as a large mine tailings dam and will contain toxic chemicals unsuitable for its intended water supply purposes. Note that approximately 1.5 million people will suffer should the dam be unable to withstand an earthquake the magnitude of the 1990 killer quake (it being situated in an area riven underground with numerous faults and fissures) or a strong typhoon.

Promises of compensation, resettlement, employment and alternative livelihood for the affected families have not been fulfilled by the government. The supposed benefits of the San Roque dam are more likely to turn into disasters!

The project funding shall come primarily from the Japanese government-owned Export-Import Bank of Japan (Jexim), which has been in charge of financing trade and investment of Japanese firms and the OECF, the agency in charge of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loans.

Apparently, these ODA loans serve Japan's interest in maintaining its "special relationship" with the Philippines, along with many Third World countries, to ensure that they continue to become useful to Japan's economic agenda. Obviously, Japan set conditional ties that the Philippine government should abide with in exchange for the aid, as such affecting strategic national economic policies.

The bulk of Japanese ODA is in the form of loans, and servicing such debts still takes its toll on the economy and the people, it being among the government's top priority at the expense of social services.

The College Editors Guild of the Philippines-Central Luzon opposes the SRMDP and the other ODA-funded projects, which it strongly believes will benefit neither the affected communities nor the national economy at large.

We join the people's growing united demand to stop the construction of the SMRDP as a defective and ultimately unviable project, and to subject the whole process of national energy planning to closer public scrutiny, with full participation of the communities directly affected by such energy-generating projects.—**ELOISA B. TUCAY, deputy secretary general, College Editors Guild of the Philippines-Central Luzon, c/o Bayan 2169-A. Plaridel St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City 2021**

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

'Pretzel' Bush says he feels great

WASHINGTON—A day after choking on a pretzel and fainting, US President George W. Bush on Monday declared "I feel great" as he left for a three-state trip to push measures aimed at reviving the ailing US economy.

Bush blamed a scarlet bruise by his temple on falling down with his glasses on and told reporters on the White House lawn that the first thing he saw after he "hit the deck" was his dogs "showing a lot of concern."

"My mother always said: 'When you're eating pretzels, chew before you swallow.' Listen to your mother," joked the president, whose doctors cleared him for the two-day swing through Illinois, Missouri and Louisiana.

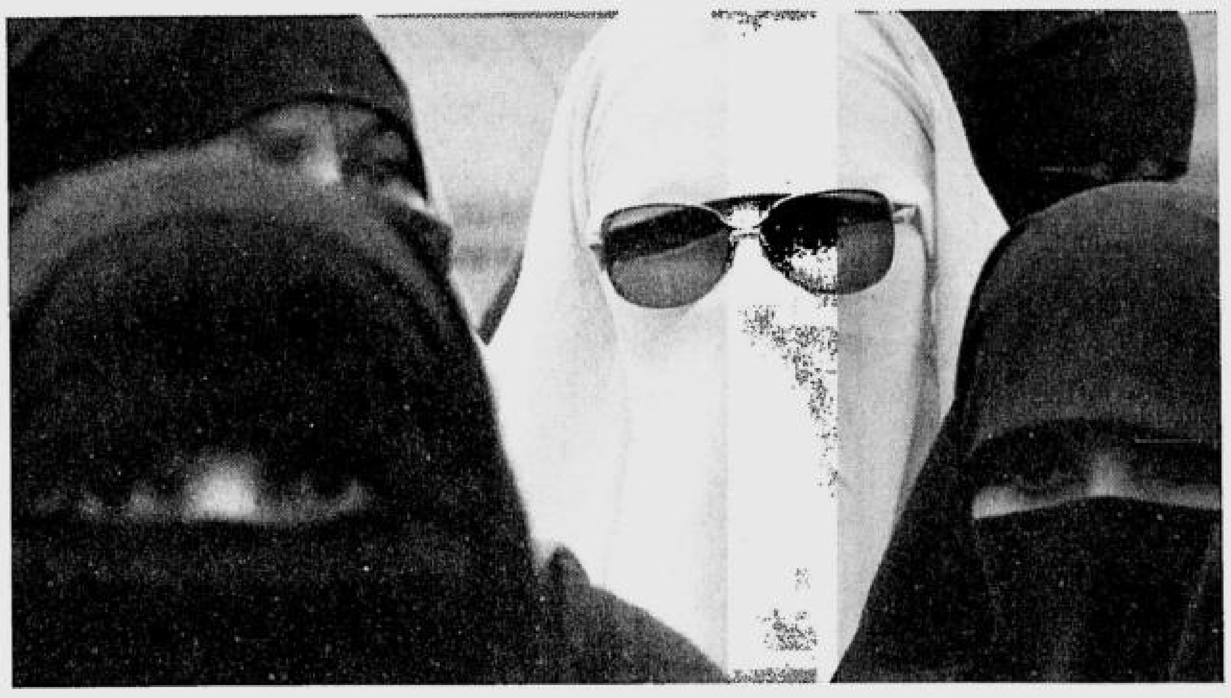
Bush was sitting on a couch in the private residence section of the White House, watching a US football game alone, when he chomped a pretzel that went down the wrong way, causing him to briefly lose consciousness, aides said.

"I woke up, and there was Barney and Spot showing a lot of concern. I didn't realize what happened until I looked into the mirror—my glasses cut the side of my face," said the president, who also suffered a cut lip.

The incident occurred at 5:35 p.m. (6:35 a.m. in Manila) when Bush was sitting on a couch alone in a room in the White House residence watching a National Football League playoff game between the Baltimore Ravens and the Miami Dolphins.

First Lady Laura Bush was talking on the phone in the next room during the fainting incident, officials said. *AFP*

India says no de-escalation despite Pakistan crackdown



SUPPORTERS of detained Pakistani Islamic leader Qazi Hussain Ahmed wait outside the Supreme Court in Islamabad Jan. 15. Ahmed, the head of Jamaat-i-Islami party, is appealing against his house arrest. REUTERS/Claro Cortes IV

NEW DELHI—India ruled out Monday an immediate military de-escalation on its border with rival Pakistan, despite the rounding up of some 1,400 alleged Islamic extremists in a crackdown on five groups banned by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf.

With fears receding of war erupting between the two nuclearized rivals, the focus of their dispute switched to a timeframe for an eventual withdrawal of hundreds of thousands of troops deployed on both sides of their border.

"The mobilization is complete and any effort at de-escalation can come only, I repeat only, if and when the cross-border terrorism is effectively stopped," Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes told reporters in New Delhi.

He said the border buildup had been triggered by "terrorist" activities emanating from Pakistan, especially the Dec. 13 attack on the Indian parliament, which left 14 people including the five gunmen dead.

"The moment these incidents end on the border and within our territory it is the time to think of de-escalation," Fernandes said.

Pakistan military spokesperson Rashid Qureshi responded that Islamabad expected India "to move back to peacetime positions to reduce tensions."

Pakistan Interior Ministry officials said police had picked up almost 1,400 extremists in a sweep that began just hours before Musharraf announced his crackdown in an address Saturday.

The groups targeted included the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad, the two Pakistani Muslim militant outfits which India accuses of staging the attack on parliament. *AFP*

US planes demolish Afghan cave hideouts

KABUL/WASHINGTON—US planes demolished cave complexes in eastern Afghanistan on Monday in a relentless hunt for al-Qaida and Taliban forces as the United Nations warned the new interim government could fail if $100 million in aid was not provided soon to impose law and fight banditry.

Thirty more al-Qaida and Taliban captives arrived under heavy guard at a US naval base in Cuba on Monday to join a first group of prisoners who settled into a routine in cage-like cells awaiting interrogation and possible trial.

On the 100th day of the bombing campaign prompted by Sept. 11 attacks on America that killed more than 3,000 people, planes leveled buildings and closed entrances to dozens of caves in the Zawar Kili area to destroy what the US military said was a base for Taliban and al-Qaida fighters trying to flee to Pakistan.

"As I understand it, we have leveled the remaining structures that were found on the surface and we have closed all the caves that we would intend not be reoccupied," Navy Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem said. "So I guess the best way to term it is that it is now time to go look elsewhere."

As travelers reported rising banditry on provincial roads, Francesc Vendrell, deputy UN special envoy for Afghanistan, said the country was unlikely to be properly disarmed soon.

The government says it has no money to pay its 210,000 civil servants and 25,000 police. UN and foreign diplomats worry that public support for the interim administration could fade quickly if it could not come up with the cash for wages. *Reuters*

Enron worker raised warning in August

WASHINGTON—An Enron employee warned her bosses in August 2001 of "funny accounting" four months before the energy titan's spectacular bankruptcy, a Congressional committee said Monday.

US lawmakers revealed they had uncovered the internal memo and they demanded further information in letters to Enron chief executive Kenneth Lay and to accountants Arthur Andersen.

The unidentified employee wrote her warning two months before Enron announced massive losses and about four months before it filed for bankruptcy in Dec. 2—the biggest corporate failure in history.

Many Enron staff had their pensions in company shares and lost their life savings.

The collapse came in the wake of a total loss of credibility on the market after Enron had to restate its financial earnings.

The Enron employee wrote directly to Lay questioning the propriety of some accounting, the senior lawmakers said in their letters, copies of which were released to the media.

She also allegedly met for one hour with Lay to discuss her concerns.

The US lawmakers some excerpts directly from of the Enron employee's allegations.

"It sure looks to the layman on the street that we are hiding losses in a related company and will compensate that company with Enron stock in the future," the employee wrote to Lay.

"I am incredibly nervous that we will implode in a wave of accounting scandals." *AFP*

Colombia rebels to go back to peace talks

LOS POZOS, Colombia—Rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have accepted Colombian government safety guarantees to restart peace talks, a French diplomat working to revive the stalled talks announced here.

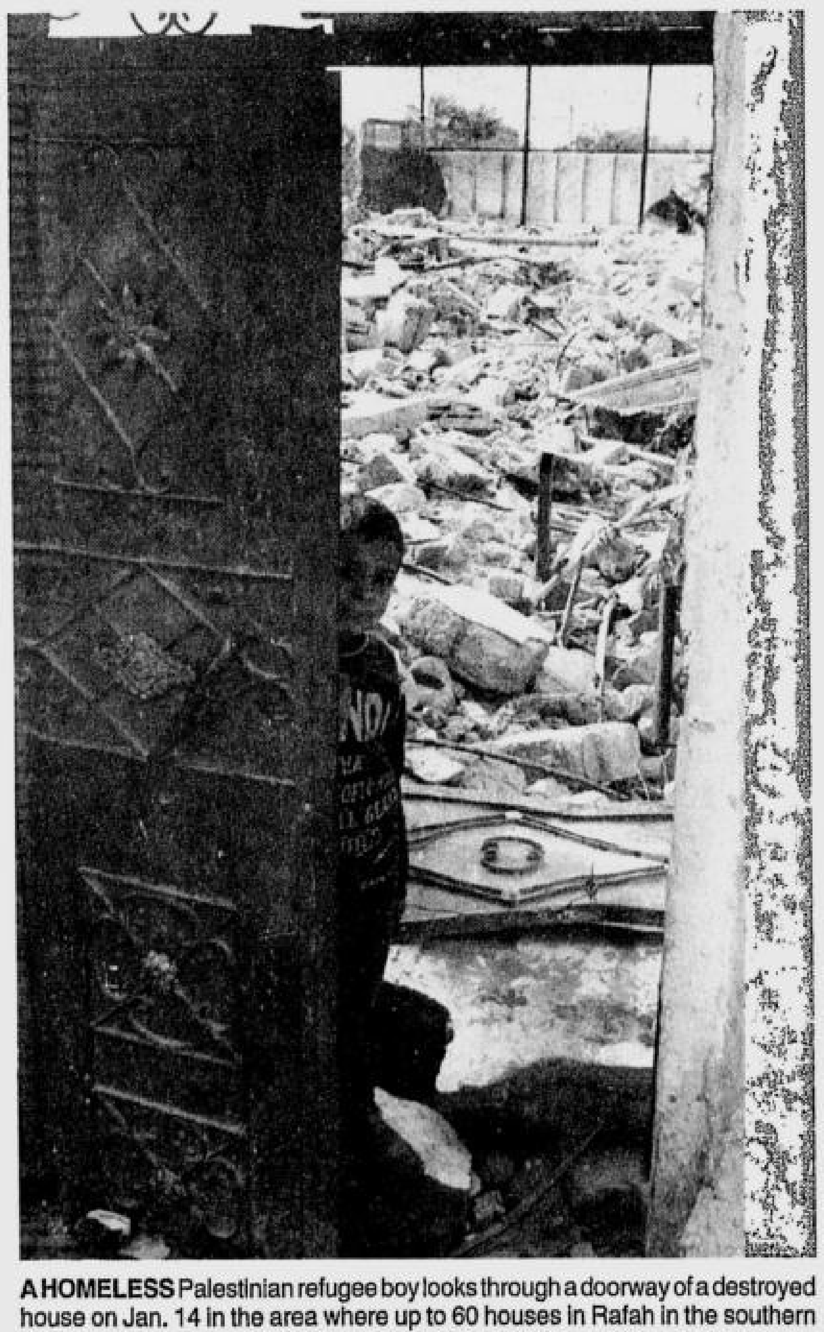
French ambassador Daniel Parfait, who coordinates the so-called "group of ten" countries that actively support Colombia's peace process, arrived in this town in rebel-controlled territory Monday with a bevy of diplomats in an attempt to coax the FARC rebels back to the negotiating table.

"The conditions exist to re-launch, in an immediate way, the peace process in Colombia," Parfait said, reading a statement to reporters.

Both President Andres Pastrana and FARC leader Manuel Marulanda had accepted the statement, Parfait said. He made the announcement flanked by James LeMoyne, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's special advisor on Colombia. *AFP*

BUT IS SHE TALL ENOUGH? REUTERS

Sylvie Tellier (right) is crowned Miss France 2002 by last year's title holder Elodie Gossuin in Mulhouse Dec. 8. A disappointed contender for the title of France's prettiest woman feels she was unfairly disqualified from the Miss France 2002 contest. Aurelie Brun has demanded that legal experts check whether winner Sylvie Tellier reaches the requisite minimum height of 1.72 meters (five feet, six inches).



A HOMELESS Palestinian refugee boy looks through a doorway of a destroyed house on Jan. 14 in the area where up to 60 houses in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip were destroyed by Israeli bulldozers last week. REUTERS

Mideast truce in tatters after killings

JERUSALEM—An explosion that killed a Palestinian militant and a revenge attack in which an Israeli soldier was shot dead left a month-old ceasefire in tatters on Tuesday.

Despite the new spasm of violence, the US State Department said Secretary of State Colin Powell had not decided when to send envoy Anthony Zinni back to the region to resume mediation between Israelis and Palestinians. Zinni went home on Jan. 6.

The Middle East slipped deeper into conflict after Raed al-Karmi, a leader of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, was killed on Monday by a bomb which Palestinian and Israeli security sources said Israel planted.

Hours after Karmi, blamed by Israel for the deaths of at least nine Israelis, was blown up in the West Bank city of Tulkarm, gunmen killed an Israeli soldier and wounded an officer on a road near a Jewish settlement, the army said.

The Brigades, an unofficial armed group in Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, said it had avenged Karmi and declared dead the truce which the Palestinian president announced on Dec. 16 under international pressure to stop suicide bombings in Israel.

"This operation comes as a swift retaliation for the assassination of our leader... and for the demolition of homes which has left families homeless in Rafah," it said in a statement. "Israeli people, you will not enjoy peace after this day."

The statement referred to Israel's internationally condemned demolition last week of dozens of houses in the southern Gaza Strip.

The army said the houses had been abandoned and were used as cover for gunmen or tunnels through which weapons were smuggled from nearby Egypt. The International Committee of the Red Cross said hundreds of Palestinians were left homeless. *Reuters*

Japan's royals wax poetic

TOKYO—Japan's imperial family remembered victims of the 1995 Kobe earthquake and celebrated the birth last month of a new princess in an annual New Year's poetry reading with roots dating back more than 1,000 years.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko hosted the highly ritualized recital Tuesday in a sparsely decorated hall in the Imperial Palace.

Poems this year were based on the theme "Spring," with Emperor Akihito's 32-syllable verse culminating the nationally televised event.

Akihito, dressed in a morning suit, listened attentively as a reciter intoned the lyrics of his poem. The verse was inspired by his trip last year to the western Japan island of Awaji, which was damaged in the 1995 earthquake in nearby Kobe that killed more than 6,000 people.

As translated by the Imperial Household Agency, the poem read:

"We planted a tree
Of evergreen magnolia
With little children
While the Spring was deepening
On that earth-shaken island."

The New Year's poetry reading became an annual event in the late 19th century when the public was invited to make contributions for the first time. This year poems by 10 people were chosen from 23,637 entries, including 221 from countries including Brazil, Argentina and the United States.

Crown Princess Masako, a 38-year-old Harvard University-educated former diplomat, was absent from the ceremony, an Imperial Household Agency spokesman said, without elaborating. She did, however, present a poem to honor her husband, Crown Prince Naruhito, and the birth of their first child, Princess Aiko, on Dec. 1. It read:

"The life of the newborn child shines beautifully,
the spring I greet with my husband is so fresh and pure." *AP*

US rescues stuck Russian pol

WELLINGTON—The United States came to the rescue of a high-ranking Russian politician's tour party stranded at the South Pole by an aircraft breakdown, the US Antarctic Program said on Tuesday.

Artur Chilingarov, the deputy chairman of the State Duma and a noted polar explorer in Russia, led a group commemorating the 60th anniversary of the first Russian flight to the South Pole last week, a Russian embassy official said.

After getting passports stamped and touring the US Amundsen-Scott South Pole base on Jan. 8, the group of 14 Russian, United States, Ukrainian, French, Swedish, and Swiss nationals could not leave, said John Sherve, New Zealand manager of Raytheon Technical Services, the support company for the US Antarctic Program.

"They went back to their plane, tried to start it and it wouldn't start," Sherve said in a telephone interview.

A day later the Russian members of the group left the pole in a US ski-equipped LC-130 Hercules, with the seven others flown out by Adventure Network International, a private tour company operating trips to the South Pole.

Sherve said that the US initially thought that the trip was a Russian government venture, so agreed to carry seven Russians including Chilingarov back to Christchurch, the New Zealand base of the US Antarctic Program.

"There was some confusion about whether it was a private or government venture, and the Russian embassy in Washington clarified that it was indeed a private venture," Sherve said.

The US government would bill the Russian government $80,000 for the rescue of Chilingarov, he said. *Reuters*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers mostly over the Eastern sections.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 21°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/01/16/02

Alvarez accepts new DOTC Cordillera chief; crisis over

BAGUIO CITY—Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez has "accepted" lawyer Alfredo Mondiguing as the new DOTC Cordillera director, a department official in Manila said Tuesday.

Mondiguing was installed on Monday by DOTC employees after they deposed incumbent Director Socrates Suayan, an appointee of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

An undersecretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications made the announcement, saying Alvarez had wanted the affairs of the DOTC Cordillera office to normalize.

The DOTC official said the agency was confronted by staff problems involving payroll, communication and existing community projects, which were brought to their attention by the employees.

Suayan was unceremoniously "ousted" by the employees who favored Mondiguing, DOTC assistant regional director for communication.

Mondiguing asserted his appointment as new regional director during the Monday flag ceremony at the DOTC regional office where he presented to the employees copies of his appointment paper and a certificate declaring his official oath of office.

The appointment paper was signed on Nov. 27 by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But a day after Mondiguing's takeover, the employees found themselves holding a worthless payroll voucher because they were uncertain which of their two directors had the authority to approve its release.

"The issue now is who would be receiving the P15,000 (monthly pay) of a regional director. But, of course, it is also about who will sign the payroll," Suayan told the INQUIRER.

Suayan met later with Alvarez and DOTC officials in Manila to explain last Monday's incident.

A DOTC source said Alvarez had been trying since December to negotiate a smooth transition at the Cordillera office.

"It was wrong for the INQUIRER to slant the story and say Alvarez sat on (Mondiguing's) appointment. We knew he was appointed by Malacañang. But you know Filipino politics. There was pressure and we wanted to solve it properly," the source said.

Suayan admitted that Cordillera politicians have now entered the fray, by hounding Alvarez with complaints about Monday's incident here.

Backing Suayan are several congressmen, including Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, and Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas.

Mondiguing, on the other hand, is being supported by other governors and congressmen from the region.

"It is this politics, which is affecting this office," said Suayan, 34, who was appointed by Estrada in 1999.

He was lead convenor here of the Jeep ni Erap campaign network of the former president.

But the DOTC source said they have discovered a "third party," in the leadership squabble who wanted to "destroy" Mondiguing and Suayan in the process.

The source declined to elaborate.

But since Monday afternoon, DOTC officials had received documented complaints from another DOTC Cordillera official who accused Mondiguing of distributing fake Malacañang documents.

Ronaldo Fernando Jr., DOTC assistant director for transportation, accused Mondiguing on Monday of presenting fake papers on his appointment.

Fernando showed to the INQUIRER samples of the signatures of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and his senior deputy, Waldo Flores, and compared these with Mondiguing's photocopied documents.

Fernando, who admitted he was one of five applicants to Suayan's post, said his complaints had been brought to Malacañang.

"Let him (Fernando) state that publicly. You all heard him accuse (Romulo) of issuing a fake document. Let him prove it. You're all witnesses," Mondiguing told the employees.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ROUNDUP

Isabela tourist areas

ILAGAN, Isabela—President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon to promote the tourism potentials of Isabela's beaches, Ifugao's rice terraces and Kalinga's whitewater rafting areas by including these in his department's tourism modules. Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. said Ms Macapagal's verbal order to Gordon was announced after the President's visit to the coastal towns of Divilacan and Maconacon on Tuesday. Dy said the President has directed the Department of Tourism and local governments to develop the tourism areas of Isabela, Ifugao and Kalinga to improve tourism-related activities in these provinces. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cop kills cop

ILAGAN, Isabela—A policeman was shot and killed by a fellow policeman after a quarrel at the police station in Rizal, Cagayan, on Friday. Police identified the fatality as SPO1 Leonardo Asco. The suspect, SPO1 Fernando Simangan, surrendered to Insp. Juan Taguindo, Rizal police chief. Reports said Asco, who arrived drunk at the Barangay Centro police substation in Rizal, cursed Simangan and without provocation fired his pistol in the air. Later, Asco poked his gun at Simangan and threatened him, but the latter shot Asco with his Armalite rifle. Simangan said he shot Asco to defend himself. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Family feud: 2 dead

TUMAUINI, Isabela—Two men were killed after a fight erupted among relatives in Barangay Lingaling here on Friday. Police said SPO2 Richard Ugaddan, 41, who is assigned at a police sub-station in Barangay Balug here, allegedly shot and killed his brother Michael Ugaddan, 35, and their cousin Reonel Ugaddan, 30. The shooting occurred after Michael and Reonel tried to intervene in a fight between SPO2 Ugaddan and Jessie Magallones, another relative. Reports said SPO2 Ugaddan suffered from a stab wound, allegedly inflicted by Magallones.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bulacan watchdog formed

BALIUAG, Bulacan—The Malolos diocese and multisectoral groups in the province have launched a watch group that will monitor the implementation of the projects of Bulacan Rep. Wilfrido Villarama. The launching was attended by 200 leaders of seven towns in Bulacan's second district. Fr. Adonis Bringas of the Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Government trained the leaders of the Countrywide Development Fund Watch Group in monitoring congressional projects. The CCAGG first implemented the project in Abra.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

₱25M for bridge repair

DAVAO CITY—A total of P25 million was earmarked for the construction of bridges damaged or destroyed by floods here last week. Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong, who inspected the damaged infrastructure facilities, said construction and repair of the bridges would take about six months. A total of 12 bridges were damaged by the flood, including the collapsed Maa Bridge. Datumanong also said reforestation and flood control projects were needed to avoid another flooding. Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said it was about time for the government to take necessary measures to prevent another flood disaster.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Militiaman, son slain

TARRAGONA, Davao Oriental—Suspected Moro rebels ambushed and killed a militiaman and his son on Saturday in Sitio Talisay, Barangay Lucatan here. Police said Arismolo Macusang, 64 and his son Arismolo Jr., were on their way home, along with several others, when they were shot. Supt. Catalino Cuy said the elder Macusang was one of the witnesses against at least 31 members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front who were arrested in 2000 during then President Joseph Estrada's all-out war against the rebels. Cuy said that before the incident, the militiaman was asked by some MILF leaders to back out as witness.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Customs take reaches ₱1B

DAVAO CITY—The Bureau of Customs here collected more than P1 billion in revenues last year, its biggest collection ever. Datu Minah Dianalan, customs district collector, said the Davao Port alone posted an 18-percent increase compared to the total collection of P885 million in 2000. He said the bulk of revenue earnings came from the payment of customs duties, proceeds from auction sales of items seized and forfeitures of smuggled goods in favor of the government, and fines and penalties of vessels and carriers for violation of the Tariff and Customs Code.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

MNLF 'rift' belied

COTABATO CITY—The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) is intact and continues to be behind Gov. Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

This was the assurance made by MNLF secretary general Muslimin Sema as he denied a rift exists between and among members of the Council of 15.

The council is composed of MNLF senior leaders and the front's Central Committee.

But Sema, who is also mayor of this city, admitted that "minor problems" exist in the MNLF's highest policy-making body.

He brushed aside reports of a wall between him and Hussin whom he described as a capable and qualified leader of the expanded ARMM.

Malacañang has reportedly taken notice of the rift in the council, the group that it recognized after it "booted out" then (ARMM) Gov. Nur Misuari as MNLF chair and elevated him to the status of chair emeritus.

Radio and TV reports also said Malacañang had offered national positions to some Misuari-appointed Cabinet officials who support the Council of 15.

The alleged rift started when Hussin, upon assumption to power as the ARMM chief executive, did not comply with the "gentleman's agreement" between him and Sema.

The agreement reportedly involved the reappointment of Misuari's Cabinet members whom he sacked after learning he was to be unseated as MNLF chair.

Among those sacked was Education Regional Secretary Bai Sandra Sema, Sema's wife, and several MNLF field commanders who pledged support to the council.

Interviewed over TV, Sema admitted that the President had asked for a list of names from some members of the Cabinet and the Council of 15 to be appointed to national offices.

This was reportedly meant to prevent a break-up in the Council. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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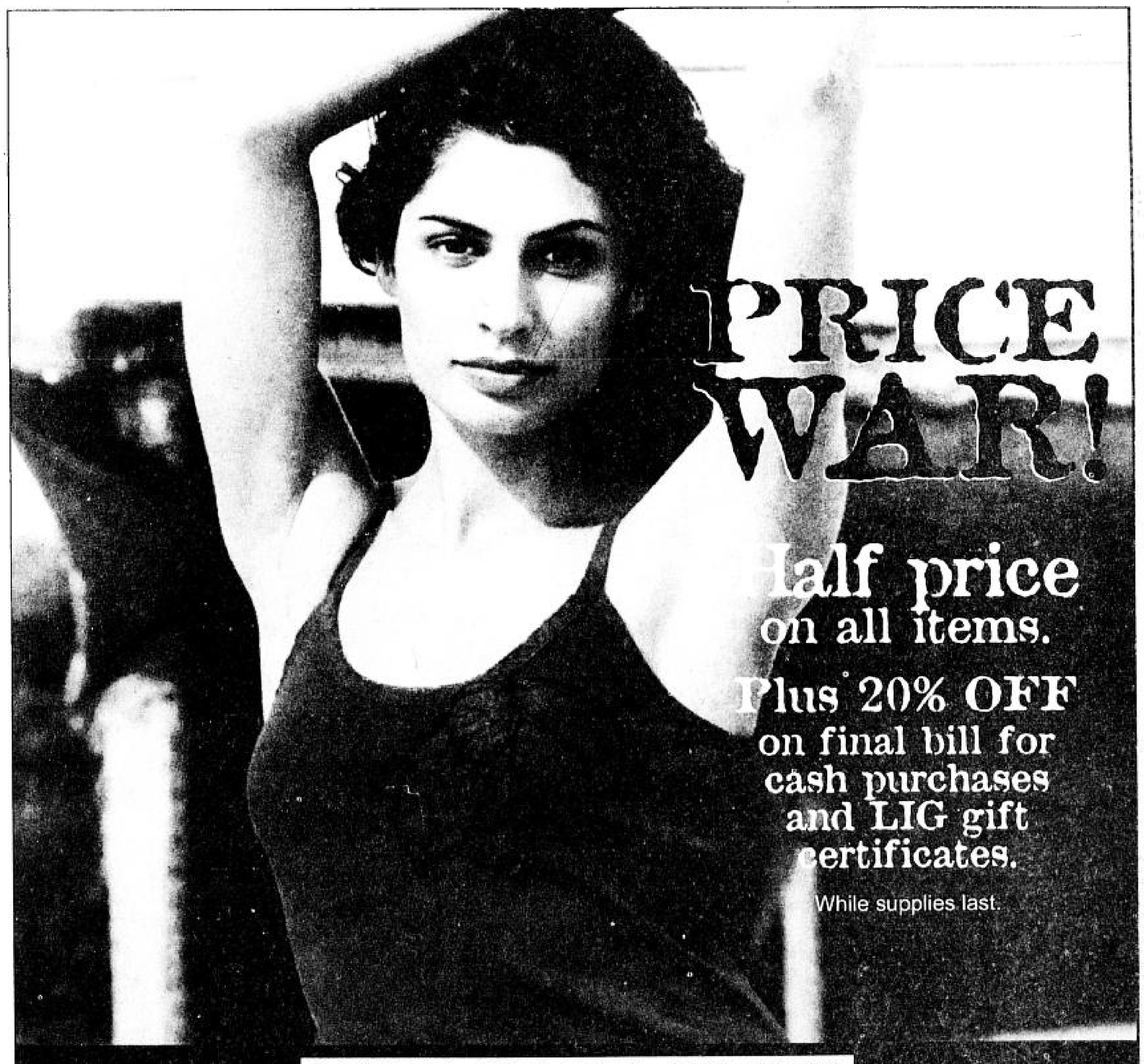
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People Power II 'heroes' in North to be cited

BAGUIO CITY—Key players of People Power II in Northern Luzon will reunite here and honor the "heroes" who helped oust then President Joseph Estrada last year.

Among the awardees that members of the Erap Resign Movement in Baguio would honor are former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and his lawyer and impeachment trial private prosecutor Pablito Sanidad.

Voltaire Tupaz, secretary general of the Tongtongan Ti Umili, said other individuals and groups in the region who participated in anti-Estrada protests would be cited in a program on Jan. 20.

"We would also like to give due recognition to the sectors such as the church, professionals, urban poor, workers, students and other government officials who asserted political change during the Edsa II last year," Tupaz said.

Local militant groups said the role of Singson, the acknowledged "Juetengate" whistleblower who caused the downfall of his erstwhile friend Estrada, in Edsa II should not be ignored.

"His coming out last year regarding the (then) president's (alleged) illegal activities had an element of risk. He became very instrumental in the ousting of Erap and it was positive to the people's effort, in our history. That is irrevocable," Manuel Loste, Cordillera coordinator of Bayan Muna, said.

But Loste said that while the militants acknowledged Singson's role in Edsa II, they could not accept President Macapagal-Arroyo's description of Singson as the "Father of Edsa II."

He said the label was "too much," considering that Singson's former constituents have filed corruption, graft and plunder cases against him last year.

"Calling him the father (of Edsa II) is overdoing it. If he has done something extraordinary good in the past, that should not serve as a license for him to do anything that is against the interest of the people," Loste said.

Photo exhibits and the exhibition of Edsa II items, like "Erap Resign" shirts, pins and stickers would be held.

Tupaz said Ms Macapagal's performance would be assessed during the celebrations.

"She has failed the people, especially in prosecuting Estrada. Justice for the people seems so slow and the case is going nowhere. There is also no meaningful transformation under her administration in terms of economic relief and increase in workers' wages," Tupaz said. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

P3.7-M ILOILO FESTIVAL

'Dinagyang' expected to boost Iloilo economy

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Ilonggos are gearing for this year's "Dinagyang" festival that is expected to give a much-needed boost to the sluggish economy of this city and Iloilo province.

The Dinagyang, which starts today and will run up to Jan. 27, is among the many festivals held this month in Western Visayas that profess devotion to the Sto. Niño. It is held a week after the "Ati-atihan" in Kalibo, Aklan.

Highlights of the festival are the "Kasadyahan" contest on Jan. 26, with six tribes taking part, and the "Ati-ati" contest on Jan. 27, with 17 tribes competing.

Mounting the festival would cost at least P3.7 million, according to the executive committee of the Dinagyang Foundation.

The city government has pledged P700,000, while the provincial government has allocated P200,000. The Dinagyang Foundation will raise the remaining amount from sponsorships and contributions.

Iloilo Mayor Jerry Treñas said he was optimistic that the festival would attract foreign and domestic tourists. He said foreign dignitaries and top government officials, including Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, were expected to attend.

Business leaders are hoping that the festival will boost the earnings of hotels, resorts and restaurants.

Last year, the world economic crisis, the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings and the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States dampened tourism activities in Western Visayas.

Room occupancy averaged to only 25 percent in big hotels and 30 percent in smaller ones. But this year, before the festival, hotels were already fully booked, according to Jun Nofuente, president of the Iloilo Hotels, Restaurants and Resorts Association (IHRRA).

"This is a good sign that the festival has been well projected compared to the previous years," said Nofuente.

Other festival highlights include the penitential procession on Jan. 16, the National Mountain bike Cross Country Competition on Jan. 20, and the National Triathlon Interclub Championship on Jan. 26.

The IHRRA will hold a food festival featuring Ilonggo delicacies on Jan. 24-27 along Delgado Street.

For the first time, an exhibit of various images of the Sto. Niño will run on Jan. 21-27 at the SM City Activity Center.

During the contests and street dancing on Jan. 26-27, the city's main streets will be closed to traffic. Security will be tightened.

The festival traces its roots to 1968, when Fr. Sulpicio Enderes, with a delegation of the Cofradia de Cebu, brought a replica of the image of the Señor Sto. Niño de Cebu to the San Jose Parish Church where it is still enshrined.

A year after, the first parish feast of the Sto. Niño was celebrated. The champion and runner-up in the Kalibo Ati-atihan contest performed in what was considered the first Ati-ati festival in Iloilo City.

Since then, the celebration of the feast is held every third Sunday of January, a week after the Kalibo affair. In 1970, the first Ati-ati contest was held at the Freedom Grandstand. The Majapahit Tribe of Compania Maritima won the contest.

Five years after, the city government took over the festival, now a big tourist attraction, as the Cofradia could no longer cope with the expanding activities.

In 1977, in order not to duplicate Kalibo's Ati-atihan, organizers renamed the festival "Dinagyang," from the Hiligaynon word "*dagyang*" or merrymaking.

THE "DINAGYANG" festival promises to be as colorful and exciting as this Ati-ati tribe in last year's contest.
FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF PICTURE CITY

Suspected drug lord shot dead

By Estanislao Caldez
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A motorcycle-riding gunman shot and killed a suspected jueteng lord and wounded his companion while they were on their way to jog at the athletic bowl here early Tuesday.

The murder of businessman Bienvenido de Guzman came on the heels of an aggressive "No to Jueteng" campaign of Cagayan Rep. Manuel Mamba in the third district.

Anti-jueteng billboards are posted along the roads in the district, where this city is located. Despite the campaign, the illegal numbers game continues, police said.

De Guzman's companion, businessman Celso Binarao, was wounded and taken to a hospital here.

The two were riding on a bicycle on their way to the Arranz athletic bowl for their daily morning jogging. Upon reaching the area, the gunman fired successive shots at De Guzman, with one bullet hitting Binarao.

Both fell on the road. Binarao reportedly told De Guzman to pretend to be dead. But the gunman reportedly fired more shots at De Guzman, and left.

Police recovered six empty shells and two slugs from a .45 cal. pistol from the scene.

Mayor Randolph Ting condemned the killing and ordered the city police to get the killer.

Despite Mamba's campaign against the numbers game, jueteng draws are reportedly being conducted in another town.

On Monday, the last balls drawn were numbers 10 and 13. Bet collectors here said number "10" stood for "*tulog* (sleep)" or "end" while number "13" stood for blood.

Aleo replaces Esperon as brigade chief

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY—Col. Alexander Aleo, chief of Task Group Lightning based in Lamitan, Basilan, has assumed the post of 103rd Army Brigade commander.

He replaced Col. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., who will be installed as the new chief of the Presidential Security Group in Malacañang on Jan. 21.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said Aleo, who belongs to Philippine Military Academy Class '74, is ``the first among his classmates to assume as the brigade commander in this province, and to conduct the mission to rescue the hostages and destroy the Abu Sayyaf."

Maj. General Glicerio Sua, chief of the 1st Tabak Division and of the Task Force Comet, said he was confident that Aleo will be able to perform the task.

Aleo said he would solve the peace and order problem in Lamitan and Tuburan towns by getting support from community leaders and members and, at the same time, strengthening the territorial forces like the militiamen.

"I am ready to do my job and finish what they have started," Aleo said.

Palawan board suspends mayor

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The provincial board meted out a one-year suspension to a town mayor for abuse of authority.

Mayor Samson Degillo of Rizal, about 180 km south of this city, was suspended following a complaint filed by former mayor Nicolas Montano.

Montano said Degillo violated the Local Government Code when the latter issued a memorandum to municipal assessor Nida Tolentino to cancel Montano's tax declaration on a contested lot.

Among over a hundred tax declarations, Degillo singled out Montano's, the complainant said.

The lot was claimed by Degillo and became the subject of previous altercations between the two.

When the assessor resisted Degillo's order because she felt that the tax declaration was illegal, she was charged with insubordination.

Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon, a party-mate of Degillo, said the board just gave what Degillo deserved.

"It was very clear that Mayor Degillo violated some provisions of the Local Government Code. We cannot do anything but impose the proper penalty as part of our quasi-judicial function," Ponce de Leon said. *Jofelle Tesorio*

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Compound
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Tel. No. (632) 927-3627, 435-4231, 920-5521 loc. 3591

INVITATION TO BID

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting all interested and qualified bidders to participate in the bidding for the supply and delivery of Brass Fittings (One (1) year requirement):

Quantity	Description
29,076 pcs.	Brass Ball/Straight Valve with lockwing, 20mm inlet thread size x 20mm swivel nut outlet thread size

As per attached MWSI Technical Specifications and Terms and Conditions

The complete bid documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, Eng'g. Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000.00) in the form of cash or Manager's Check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

Bid Proposal shall be submitted to the Purchasing Department on or before January 25, 2002 (Friday): 3:00 p.m.

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
AVP-Corporate Logistics

(PDI - Jan. 16, 2002)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

January 9, 2002

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar projects (at least 50% of Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to bid for the contracts listed as follows:

Contract Package	Scope of Works	Contract Cost (Php)	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
1. Tammang Housing Project, Kamahardikaan, Indanan, Sulu	Core Housing Construction	3.500 M	B	Medium "A" for Building
2. Jolo Eagles Cooperative Housing Project, Patikul, Sulu	Road, drainage, survey works	3.136 M	B	Medium "A" for Building
3. Butuan City New Villages, Phase 1, Bgy Mahay, Butuan City	Road, drainage, sewerage, survey works	14.600 M	A	Medium "B" for Building
4. Improvement of Iloilo Project Office Mandurriao, Iloilo City	Extension of Office Building	1.863 M	B	Small "A" for Building

A. Eligibility Statement Forms, bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, Second Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following: a) Letter of Intent; b) PCAB/IAC License; c) Certificate of Completion/Acceptance and Contract Agreement of completed similar project; and d) Presentation of above-cited original documents for authentication purposes.
B. Interested contractors may contact the BAC Secretariat with Telephone Nos. 920-8016 and 926-4581 to 65 local 262 for additional information.
C. Payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 per set for Contracts 1-3 and P500.00 for Contract 4 shall be received only from authorized representatives.
D. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.
E. Deadline of submission of LOI/issuance of bid documents is on January 30, 2002. Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference and other bidding activities shall be announced later.
F. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any minor defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI – Jan. 16, 21 & 29, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
Magallanes Drive, Intramuros
1002 Manila

NOTICE
TO ALL ALIENS

All ALIENS, immigrant or non-immigrant, living or sojourning in the Philippines, are hereby reminded, pursuant to Section 3 of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, as amended, in relation to Section 10 of the Alien Registration Act, to report in person to the Bureau of Immigration within the first sixty (60) days of every year to update their file with the Bureau. For those who are in Metro Manila, the annual report shall be at the Alien Registration Division, BI-Intramuros, while for those in the provinces, they can go to the nearest BI subport office.

The official in charge shall accept such annual report in the manner to be prescribed by the rules and regulations. An annual report fee of Three Hundred and Ten Pesos (P310.00) shall be paid by the alien. The parent or legal guardian of an alien who is less than fourteen years of age, shall have the duty of reporting for such alien: Provided, that whenever any such alien attains his fourteenth birthday in the Philippines, he shall thereafter report in person and pay the required annual report fee of P310.00 once a year within the period and at the place above designated.

For compliance.

(Sgd.) **ANDREA DOMINGO**
Commissioner

(PDI – Jan. 16 & 17, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PICC PROJECTS

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites prospective bidders to apply for prequalification/eligibility for the **Replacement of Fixed Theater Seats - PICC Plenary Hall.** Scope of Work includes furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, services and other incidentals required to perform: (a) dismantling of existing fixed theater seats and hauling to the designated storage; (b) preparation of a complete seating plans; (c) complete installation of new theater seats; and (d) all items necessary to complete the work.

Minimum requirement to prequalify to bid for said project are as follows:

1.0 Local supplier should be a seating contractor for the past 10 years (reckoned from October 1991) specializing in the manufacture, assembly and distribution of seating furniture for commercial installations/systems furniture.
2.0 Local supplier should have supplied and installed locally at least a total of 1,500 theater seats with at least 900 seats installed in one project.
3.0 The contractor should have a net contracting capacity of at least a total of P35.5 Million computed as follows: NFCC = (Current Assets minus Current Liabilities) minus (Value of all Outstanding works under on-going contracts including awarded contract yet to be started).
4.0 Must submit a notarized certificate of satisfactory performance (for the 2 biggest theater seats projects) signed by the client's and design consultant's authorized signatories. In case of in-house design, the approved signatories shall be the designer and the Head of the design/infrastructure department of approved equal. Certification form can be obtained from the AHCPP Secretariat. The Bank reserves the right to validate such certification and shall automatically disqualify any bidder who falsify data on these documents or issue fake certifications.
5.0 Must be able to submit a demo unit and accomplish the Prequalification Statements/Documents to be issued by the AHCPP Secretariat.
6.0 In case where the local supplier is a distributor of the theater seats, the local supplier should have had for the past 2-1/2 years (reckoned from January 1999) a distributorship/dealership contract with the foreign supplier/manufacturer of the theater seats to be used for the project. The said contract should not expire before December 2003; otherwise, the local supplier should submit a notarized affidavit attesting that the contract shall be extended to a minimum of at least 1 year after the project has been completed and accepted by BSP/PICC. Submit a dated certification from the principal attesting these requirements.
7.0 The manufacturer of the theater seats should be ISO 9000 certified.
8.0 Articles of Incorporation and Business Permit
9.0 Y2000 audited Financial Statement (Balance Sheet and Income Statement) with Y2000 Income Tax Return

Prequalification Statements/Documents may be obtained from AHCPP Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Streets, Manila. Date and time of issuance of is on **January 16 to 21, 2002** / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn. Cost of form is two hundred pesos per set (P200/set). Deadline of submission of Prequalification Documents is on **January 30, 2002.**

Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility shall be issued on **February 4, 2002** / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn at the AHCPP Secretariat together with the issuance of **Bid/Tender Documents** to eligible/prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents (P2,000.00/set).

For inquiries, please call AHCPP Secretariat at Tel. No. 524-7011 local 3143.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of Executive Order No. 262 Series of 2000 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations shall apply relative to prequalification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

January 16 and 19.

On Leave Jan. 14
JUAN QUINTOS, JR.
Co-Chairman

(Sgd.) **VICENTE B. VALDEPEÑAS, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - Jan. 16 & 19, 2002)

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

'Jueteng' didn't end in Erap ouster

By TONETTE OREJAS
Camp Olivas, Pampanga

JUST OUTSIDE the blue and white concrete fence of the Central Luzon police headquarters in Camp Olivas in the City of San Fernando is a four-by-five-foot metal billboard for everyone to see. Since July, it has always been blank.

Defeating its purpose, the billboard never tells the latest accomplishments of the police against jueteng.

Five days to Edsa II, the empty billboard does not give a preview either to the real state of the illegal numbers game campaign that triggered the downfall of then President Joseph Estrada in January last year.

Inside the camp, however, records provide clues. Even after Estrada, jueteng is even more rampant in the region.

The number of reported raids—1,382 in Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales, and Angeles and Olongapo cities from Jan. 1 to Nov. 30 last year—indicates the tell-tale signs of impunity on the part of the jueteng network.

The arrest of 5,111 collectors and 16 financiers last year did not stop the trade. Even the filing of 469 cases and having enough evidence against those who were charged did not guarantee that the police will win the cases.

In the country, illegal gambling remains a bailable offense. A P10,000 bail is a minor dent in the pockets of jueteng lords who still earn millions of pesos a month.

The raids indicate the "seriousness" of the police to stop the racket, according to Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police director.

"Those raids are real, not feigned just so we could show we're doing something," he said.

The jueteng crackdown was most intense in Pampanga, the home province of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In "Macapagal country," policemen conducted 469 raids and arrested 1,384 collectors between January and November. Only two of six suspected financiers were arrested, though.

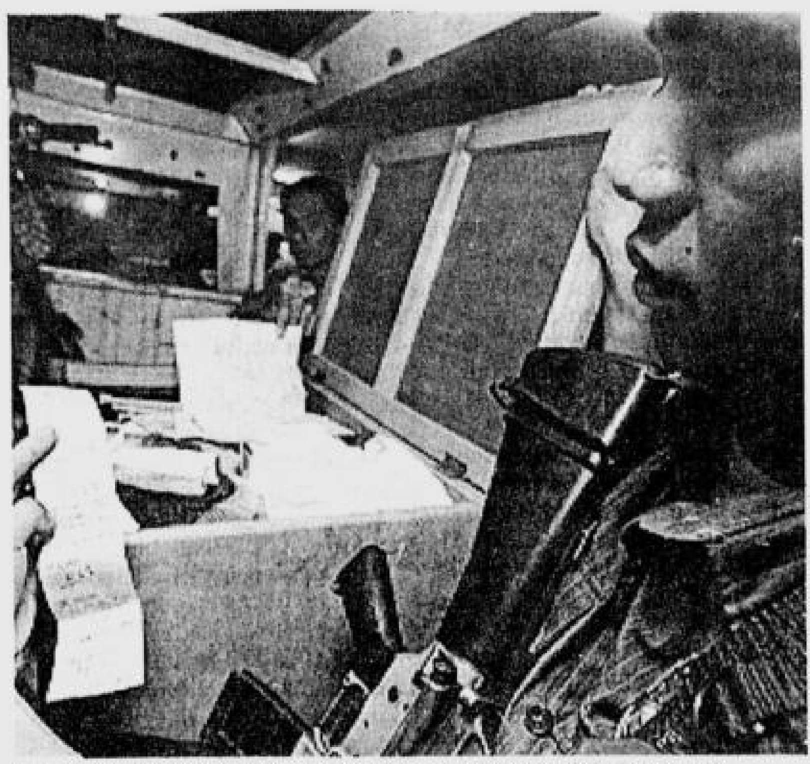
While five financiers were caught in Bulacan and eight others in Tarlac, not one was arrested in Nueva Ecija, the third province with the highest number of raids.

Why does the illegal numbers game persist?

In Central Luzon, the financiers have outlived Estrada and the new small entrants have learned to master the tricks of the trade, meaning cultivating complicity among local officials and policemen through bribe money.

"Some policemen accept bribe money from jueteng operators. The money is used to supplement the small budget for police operations," said a source from the regional police intelligence community.

The same source, a police official, said it was difficult for the anti-jueteng drive to succeed because local government officials also "tolerated" jueteng in their areas for their sources of dole-outs for KBL (*kasal, binyag, libing* or marriage, baptismal and burial) expenses of their constituents.


FILE PHOTO/EDWIN BACASMAS

A POLICEMAN examines "jueteng" materials seized during a raid.

Two lists of arrested financiers or operators carried a number of names that have been in the police files in the last two decades.

What was remarkably different last year was the rise of small financiers who entrenched themselves in lairs formerly lorded over by suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.

While Pineda pulled out of Central Luzon's most lucrative areas like Pampanga, he has maintained his hold on Pangasinan and Cavite, the source alleges.

Public officials are also believed to be involved in the game—a feature that existed before and during Estrada's almost three-year reign.

Ordinary people are not entirely blameless.

Despite reports of rigging in draws, they continue to bet. With no immediate, productive employment available, the poor depend on bet collection, getting a mere 5-7 percent share of collections for such a risky job.

To date, jueteng employs between 30,000 and 50,000 people in Central Luzon, according to various estimates.

Pangasinenses renew commitment to Edsa II ideals

By YOLANDA FUERTES
Dagupan City

THE ERAP Agco La! (Enough of Erap!) awakened the political and social consciousness of Pangasinenses and led widespread protests in 2000 against the Estrada administration that led to his ouster in January last year.

Like in Manila where a Catholic leader led protest rallies, Pangasinan had Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Lingayen-Dagupan Archdiocese at the forefront of the protest actions. Cruz chairs the Agco-Pangasinan, considered the most formidable church-based civil society group in the province.

Consistently critical of Estrada, Cruz and another social activist, lawyer Delmer Cruz, gathered similar-minded church and lay leaders to establish the Agco-Pangasinan in September 1999.

The Agco originally stood for Alliance Against Charter Offensives and spearheaded march-rallies in Dagupan and neighboring towns.

After then Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's exposé on Estrada's alleged involvement in illegal gambling, the Agco-Pangasinan transformed into the Erap Agco La!

The group led thousands of farmers, workers, students, professionals and church and lay leaders in noise barrages, street barricades, motorcades and protest rallies calling for Estrada's impeachment and ouster.

The mass actions culminated in Pangasinan's version of Edsa II on Jan. 17-19 last year.

"In those three days, we marched through the streets, made noises and became one with an outraged nation at the blatant trampling of truth and justice. And we succeeded," Delmer Cruz said.

It was the Agco-Pangasinan that welcomed Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption into office with a thanksgiving pilgrimage to Manaoag town on Jan. 27, 2001, which turned out to be her first official out-of-town visit as President.

On Friday, the Agco-Pangasinan will hold a day-long activity at the city museum to commemorate Edsa II and "to renew our commitment to the ideals and the causes it symbolizes," according to Cruz.

Cruz, secretary general of the Agco-Pangasinan, said the event, dubbed "Edsa 2: Lest we forget . . .," will feature an exhibit of photographs and other memorabilia of the group's version of the uprising.

"There will be an audio-visual presentation of the Agco's history and the causes and struggles we advocated, plus a program of cultural and presentation and messages," Cruz said.

The archbishop will celebrate a commemorative Mass on Jan. 18 at the Dagupan Museum.

Lawyer Cruz, now deputy administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, said the country has witnessed significant political and social changes since Edsa II.

"However, the struggle for truth, justice and peace, which is the essence and true legacy of Edsa II, continues," he said.

PANGASINAN
ERAP
ERAP
HUMARAP KA SA SENADO
MARCOS
MAH ERAP

MEMBERS of civil society groups in Pangasinan led by the Erap Agco La! took to the streets last year to call for the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERAP AGCO LA!

Cloud-covered paradise atop Sto. Tomas

By GOBLETH MOULIC
Mount Sto. Tomas, Benguet

HOW do you like to live in a place where frost is as common as cold and with mercury dipping to as low as 3.6 degrees Celsius?

Residents of Mt. Sto. Tomas, the second highest mountain in Luzon next to Mt. Pulag, are not kidding when they say they perspire a lot and suffer from headaches whenever they go down to Baguio City because the temperature there is 3 degrees colder than the country's summer capital.

Although tourists and workers in Baguio scampered for thick jackets to warm themselves when the temperature reached 8.8 degrees last Jan. 9, people in Sto. Tomas donned two or three sweaters, put on leg warmers and bonnets, and sat before a bonfire to cope with the freezing 5.9 degrees on the same day.

"Even a hot coffee, when left for five minutes, will become cold. *Parang nilagay mo lang sa* refrigerator," said Danny Galaty, a weather specialist who had been manning the Sto. Tomas radar for the past 18 years.

At 2,256 meters with a peak of 7,875 feet above sea level, Sto. Tomas is an ideal home for Baguio radar, satellites and antennas of telecommunication firms and television stations.

Tourism potential

A dormant volcano, Sto. Tomas is arguably the most neglected and underestimated tourism potential in Northern Luzon, probably because of its remoteness and seemingly endless rough roads.

But nature trippers don't mind the dangerous curves and lack of basic services because of the mountain's scenic beauty.

Adventurers, students and professionals need not go to Kibungan town—dubbed Benguet's Switzerland—or to Buguias town to see first-hand how leaves and flowers are covered with very thin ice.

In fact, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) station in Sto. Tomas reported three incidents of frost in December last year.

Early this month, Galaty, along with weather specialists Henry Oliano and Raymund Ordinario who are based at the radar station there, noted another frost in low-lying portions of the mountain.

Zero visibility

Based on Pagasa-radar records, Baguio's temperature in recent years was sizzling compared to that at Sto. Tomas.

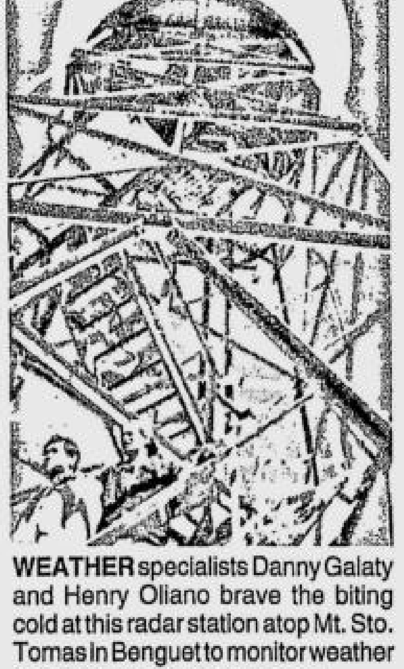
Among the coldest recorded temperatures at the radar station were 4.2 degrees Celsius on Jan. 14, 1981, 4.3 on March 6, 1977; 5.5 on Jan. 24, 1981; and 5.9 on Jan. 9, 2002.

When one climbs the mountain or drives through the long, zigzag road early in the morning or late in the afternoon, he or she is often intimidated by a zero visibility because of a mantle of cloud hovering the jagged mountain trails.

It's only when the veering winds sweeping through the mountain at high noon that its lush greenery is exposed.

We heard funny anecdotes from Galaty and Ordinario, who said that because of the thick fog, they don't see each other's faces any more during the cold season and they end up waving their hands while talking.

We thought they were overreacting, but halfway through the radar station, we found a small store aptly named "Kissing Clouds Store."


WEATHER specialists Danny Galaty and Henry Oliano brave the biting cold at this radar station atop Mt. Sto. Tomas in Benguet to monitor weather conditions in Northern Luzon.

E.V. ESPIRITU

The store lies along the road where low clouds, which look like big white pillows from afar, are literally kissing each other, especially in the late afternoon.

"Kissing Clouds Store" and four other stores here sell a variety of food—from frozen or live chicken to canned goods—needed to feed more than 200 families living in Sto. Tomas.

The storeowners and residents have to buy commodities by the bulk for their one-month supply because only two jeeps (one is named "Lumayo Ka Man") with an engine similar to that of a truck are used to ferry the passengers twice a day.

Sto. Tomas is also the best place to view the whole of Baguio and its meandering roads and highways, including the snake-like and newly built Badiwan Bridge on Marcos Highway.

As one looks down from the radar station, one can see either smog or haze which appears like a very thin paper suspended in air, especially at the onset of summer.

Sto. Tomas maintains a sodden atmosphere that fosters luxuriant growth for pine trees, strawberry fields and farms planted with cabbage, carrots, lettuce and potatoes.

Different bird species and wild flowers live there, making the place a favorite camping site of students, hikers and mountaineers.

Landmark to honor pioneers of Baguio

By JETHSEL ALLEGO AND JOANN LAGUITAO
Baguio City

TO HONOR officials and settlers who built Baguio City from a pastureland to a bustling mountain city, residents are planning to put up a landmark to immortalize these pioneers.

A 60-foot obelisk will rise at a rotunda near the Baguio Convention Center to honor the people "who envisioned, created and built the City of Baguio from a raw pastureland to a bustling city (that) it is today."

The landmark, which is scheduled to be built in July, is estimated to cost P4 million. Funds will come from Baguio residents here and abroad. The alumni associations of the Baguio City High School and Mt. Province High School and Baguio residents in the United States have pledged to extend financial support for the project.

The obelisk will be unveiled on Sept. 1 during the celebration of the 93rd Baguio Charter Day.

Edwin Cheng, an engineering consultant from San Francisco, California, made the initial sketch of the obelisk, while city architect Ignacio Estipona finalized the architectural work and design for the project.

Cheng broached the project to his friend, former mayor Francisco Paraan, who eventually organized the Baguio Pioneers Historical Society Inc. to undertake the project.

The BPHSI will conduct research to identify people and organizations and their respective roles in the discovery, creation and development of Baguio.

Among the first settlers in Baguio were Mateo and Bayosa Cariño, who owned *Kafagway* or *Califagway* (the site of the present City Hall and Camp Allen). The Cariños had the most extensive and one of the most documented landholdings in the city.

The Carantes family owned pastures and *camote* fields from the area now known as Carantes Street to the site of the Baguio Cathedral, and from the Lucban area toward Brookside. The Kidits owned parcels of land in Aurora Hill; the Quirino clan in Trancoville; and the Paraan clan in the Don Bosco Church area.

The Kennon Road area to the west belonged to a member of the Tagudi family who married a Biskey who owned the north side of Loakan Road. The Acop, Camdas and Pucay clans owned the Lower Guisad and Bell Church areas.

American city planner Daniel Burnham drew the first plan that laid out the town of Baguio. Zoologist Dean Worcester began the long process of "discovery" of Baguio by the Americans.

Gov.-General William Taft authorized the full development of Baguio as a health sanitarium and planned the opening of the Benguet Road, later renamed Kennon Road in honor of its builder, Lyman Kennon.

Benguet Gov. William Pack was the first governor who resided at the official governor's residence located at the present site of the Baguio City National High School.

Malcolm Square in downtown Baguio was named after Justice George Malcolm, who drafted the constitution of the city and became the first city and district engineer.

On Sept. 1, 1909, Baguio was officially declared a chartered city by William Cameron Forbes. The first city mayor was E.W. Reynolds (September 1909-Feb. 3, 1910) followed by Lt. Gov. E.A. Eckmann and A.D. Williams (May 24, 1913-May 16, 1918).

Mayor Charles Dandois served from 1919 to 1922. Mayor Eusebius Halsema had the longest term among the American appointees, serving for more than 17 years (Feb. 7, 1920-May 31, 1937).

Pro-Erap group meeting PNP officer

(From page A1)

against the administration. "His name came out in the papers (as one of those involved). He might have something to say to me."

Mendoza stressed that it was not Batac but a group identified with him who had sought the meeting. He described the members of the group as among those "who want to help in the efficient delivery of services."

He later sought to downplay the importance of the meeting, saying that he and Batac, for whose wedding he stood as sponsor, had often met.

"They are still part of the organization, and, of course, they want to go back to the mainstream," Mendoza said. "And they would like to work here as PNP officers. They're back, but they don't have assignments yet."

Batac was earlier reported as one of those plotting with supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada in organizing a so-called "Edsa IV."

He was replaced as head of the PNP Directorate for Police Community Relations when Mendoza took over as PNP chief in January last year. He has since been on floating status.

Batac, who was supposedly identified with the camp of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, was later tagged as one of the suspected instigators of the bloody Labor Day siege of Malacañang last year. But he later surfaced at Camp Crame to deny this.

Modified policy

Malacañang has modified its "maximum tolerance" policy toward anti-government demonstrators marching to the Palace on the anniversary of People Power II.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said they had learned their lesson from the mob attack on the Palace by Estrada supporters.

"We will, of course, follow the principle of maximum tolerance, but this time a little modified," Golez said yesterday. "You'll find out (what this means if) they try to march (toward Malacañang)."

Golez reiterated that demonstrators would only be allowed up to the Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, said security forces would not tolerate "infiltrators."

"It's still maximum tolerance . . . but once there are indications there are terrorist infiltrators, we cannot tolerate that," he said.

Security around the Palace has lately been beefed up for a "worst-case scenario" during the anniversary rites.

Aside from the Presidential Security Group (PSG), Task Force Libra, a military composite team formed last year to counter possible coup attempts by Estrada supporters, has been put on standby. It is composed of about 3,000 men.

The PNP will also deploy 10,000 cops in Metro Manila.

"In addition, we have the new structures that we set up, having learned from the lessons of the May 1 assault," Golez said without elaborating.

Edsa Shrine

The Armed Forces yesterday formed another unit, Task Force Edsa Shrine, to secure the historic landmark.

"We have the usual Task Force Libra, which we have reactivated, and, depending on how the situation develops, we can gear up our forces," said Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, AFP deputy chief of staff, who has been designated acting military spokesperson in the absence of Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan.

"Offhand, I would say that we have at our disposal maybe two or three battalions," he said.

Abaya said the military units assigned to secure the Edsa Shrine would be independent from the police units that would handle the overall security for the anniversary commemoration.

Tiglao said Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin had asked that the Edsa Shrine be secured against anti-government demonstrators.

"The Cardinal feels the Edsa Shrine should never be violated again," Tiglao said. "He doesn't want a repeat of what happened (at the so-called 'Edsa Tres' last April), when it was desecrated."

Abaya said the PNP would also handle security for Malacañang in coordination with the PSG.

He also allayed fears of a coup attempt, saying that there was "no need for a check on the loyalty of the military."

Lumbao

A recent intelligence report said the organizers of the Labor Day siege of Malacañang were planning to launch a massive mobilization during the commemoration of People Power II.

Mendoza said that police and military intelligence had been closely monitoring Lumbao and the PMAP but that the group did not pose a threat anymore.

"He is a leader of the PMAP, and the PMAP is one of those groups who are pro-Erap and who are espousing a change in government," he told reporters. "It's not necessarily a threat, but it is under our watch."

Lumbao, who is facing charges of rebellion before a Manila regional trial court in connection with the May 1 attack, has continued to elude lawmen.

Agents of the PNP Intelligence Group and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group "missed Lumbao by 20 minutes" when they went to serve a warrant for his arrest at one of his safe houses in the northern part of Metro Manila.

Mendoza said that while no deadline had been set for Lumbao's arrest, "it would be better if we can arrest him" before the anniversary rites.

Lumbao made himself scarce shortly after the May 1 siege. The other suspected instigators, including Senators Lacson and Gregorio Honasan and former senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Ernesto Maceda and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, are not in hiding.

Asked why the government was zeroing in on Lumbao, Golez said this was because the latter had refused to surrender.

"The other instigators showed up and volunteered to talk to the government," Golez said. "In the case of Lumbao, he has disappeared since May 1. If he would make himself available to the police in the same way that he makes himself available to the media, then there won't be a problem."

Tiglao said Lumbao had evaded authorities because "he's learned how to hide, like the Abu Sayyaf probably."

Dialogue

The President will conduct her dialogue with People Power II forces and the political opposition tomorrow and Friday in Malacañang.

Tiglao said invitations had been sent out, but that some parties had yet to respond. "I can't confirm it until they confirm it," he said.

Mendoza pledged that there would be no repeat of the May 1 siege.

"We are better prepared this time," he said. "We have a very good grasp of the situation. We have very good intelligence. And we have better equipment."

Mendoza said the PNP was "fielding more than what we would think is necessary, just to see to it that the commemoration will be very peaceful."

"This is to protect the people who will be attending the different activities in connection with the Edsa celebration," he said, adding:

"We have also requested the AFP for standby forces, in the event that we will need more warm bodies and more equipment."

According to Mendoza, the worst thing that can happen during the anniversary rites is a clash between pro- and anti-Estrada forces, or between militant groups belonging to different factions of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"This is what we will be watching out for," he said. "These groups should not be allowed to go near each other. There might be a confrontation."

Mendoza said he expected some groups to bus in the urban poor from depressed areas in the metropolis as well as the provinces.

"We have intelligence reports on that," he said, adding that the "practice of recruiting the poor for big events such as this" should be prevented.

"The poor are the ones being sent to the frontlines during rallies, and they end up being injured during violent dispersal operations," he noted. "Most are given free food, free fare and an allowance. They are being exploited." *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

Mindanao war game is legal, says AFP

(From page A1)

Philippine and US military officers also set up a joint committee to oversee the launching of the three-stage exercise that would include live-fire operations against the Abu Sayyaf bandits holding an American couple and a Filipino nurse on Basilan island.

Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, AFP deputy chief of staff for education and training, told reporters in Zamboanga City that he and Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, commander of the US Special Operations Command, would both head the "exercise directorate."

Teodosio spoke at the Southern Command headquarters after his meeting with three US military officers. The three did not talk to journalists.

At the military camp, workers were seen rushing the construction of training and billeting facilities for US troops.

In Manila, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said 660 US soldiers would be arriving in the next few days, drawn from units in Hawaii, Okinawa and the US mainland.

Two hundred of them will be deployed in Basilan, while another 100 will be stationed at a special camp in Zamboanga City to train two Light Reaction Companies.

The rest of the US forces, mostly support personnel and maintenance crews for US military aircraft, will be stationed at the Southcom headquarters.

Very intensive

Golez admitted that Kalayaan-Aguila 2002 was not a regular war game but "a very intensive training exercise."

"This is no different from the on-the-job training that a reporter gets. Your trainees are exposed to on-the-job reporting. This is very similar to other on-the-job training normally done in other departments," he said.

The annual exercise will be staged for the first time in an area of an active military operation against a rebel group. Previously, exercises were held at military camps in Luzon.

Unlike other previous war games that lasted only four months at the most, the latest exercise was expected to be in "full speed" by mid-February and could last until the end of 2002 if needed, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said.

Reyes said the operation would update the application of the 50-year-old Mutual Defense Treaty, stressing that "the world has changed a lot since 1951."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said previous training exercises conjured "imagined" enemies.

"Now, the current and real threat is terrorism; that's why we will be making the exercise more responsive by addressing a real threat," he told dzRH radio. "Terrorism is on Basilan, so we will do it there."

For the first time, US forces would also be allowed to join frontline Philippine troops, although American forces are not allowed by law to engage local guerrillas in combat.

3 stages

Teodosio, training director of 1,200 Filipino troops taking part in the exercise, said the maneuvers involved "preparation, training and deployment" in Basilan and other areas.

"I emphasize the presence of the Americans is to train, advise and assist our troops and military, but they can defend themselves if attacked by enemy groups," he told reporters.

"We do not want to subject them (Americans) to unnecessary risks, but they will be in the battlefront," the general said, adding that this will involve night vision equipment, sniper rifles and other military hardware.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Armed Forces spokesperson, said the US soldiers were aware of the risks and "if they sustain casualties, they have already factored that in their planning."

The war game has been on the drawing board since October when an initial batch of US military advisers visited Mindanao.

It was later approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo, who a month later received a pledge from US President George W. Bush that his government would support Manila in its war against the Abu Sayyaf.

Manila-Washington ties have never been closer since the last American soldiers marched out of Clark and Subic, after the Filipino Senate voted to end their lease.

The bases were once considered among the most strategic US military facilities in Asia. *With reports from AP and AFP*

'Country needs a leader, not a manager'

(From page A1)

Evangeline Pallones, president of the Sagip Tahanan at Kabuhayan ng Laguna Inc., told the INQUIRER that members of her group would each bring P1,000 to pay their monthly amortization at the Pag-Ibig office in Makati City after a Mass at the Edsa Shrine with Bishop Socrates Villegas and "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes.

Pallones said the group would then proceed to the office of Housing Secretary Michael Defensor to seek his assistance regarding their amortization problem with Pag-Ibig and the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.

In an interview with dzBB, Father Reyes said the rally to commemorate People Power II was intended to move the national leadership to respond to the miserable conditions of the urban and rural poor.

In Iloilo City, members of the Ilonggo Solidarity Campaign to Remove Estrada as President (or I Scrap Erap) and the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan announced a series of protest actions at the grounds of the Rotary Amphitheater, which served as their protest center on Jan. 17-20 last year.

'Superwoman'

Concepcion said the people's disappointment with Ms Macapagal was mainly a result of their high expectations when then President Joseph Estrada was unseated in January last year.

"Everybody thought she would be a superwoman," he noted.

He said businessmen had also given up on the one-year moratorium on politicking that was signed as part of the socioeconomic pact in November last year.

"We realized that businessmen have no hold on the politicians," he said.

Concepcion raised a call for a "political summit," wherein members of the administration and opposition parties would sign a pledge "to stop politicking."

"For this country to move forward, the ball is now in the hands of our politicians and police and military officials," he said.

For the meantime, businessmen are sticking to the performance review of the government's commitments in the next six months.

"We are finalizing the monthly accomplishment targets of each government agency to come up with an assessment later this year," Concepcion said.

Cracked jar

Father Reyes said the urban poor group had prepared a *banga* (jar) with cracks to symbolize the many problems facing the country.

"We do not come to destroy the jar but rather to help bring it back to its proper form—that is, to help the country overcome its problems and not to shatter it," he said.

Reyes also said the demonstrators would have *pandesal* and water for lunch in the middle of Makati's financial district to symbolize their miseries.

I Scrap Erap in Iloilo City said it would mount tomorrow a march-rally that would also serve as a reunion of People Power II groups there.

Protesters will assemble at the Rotary Amphitheater grounds, where a free concert will cap the rally.

Physician Kristin Treñas, I Scrap Erap convenor, said the protest actions were necessary to "continue and relive the spirit of Edsa."

"It is not enough that we ousted (Estrada)," Treñas said in a press conference Tuesday. "Justice will remain elusive to the people as long as he is not prosecuted."

Leaders of the alliance also accused the President of instituting her own brand of cronyism that, they said, included even Estrada's favored friends.

"Her *utang na loob* (debt of gratitude) is to the people, and not to the military, (Eduardo) Danding Cojuangco or other cronies of Estrada," said Treñas.

Youth groups belonging to the Estrada Resign Youth Movement (ERYM) accused the administration of worsening the plight of the youth.

"We were short-changed," said ERYM convenor Karen Edaniel. (The President) is forcing us to remain in the streets to continue our protests."

Bayan-Panay chair Jeffrey Celiz accused Ms Macapagal of turning her back on People Power II.

"The administration is destabilizing itself by continuing the anti-people policies of its predecessors," he added.

Bayan will lead other protest actions on Jan. 20 in Iloilo City, Roxas City in Capiz and Kalibo in Aklan.

But Celiz rejected calls for a so-called "Edsa IV" or the putting up of a civilian-military junta.

"This will only serve the militarist scheme of (former President Fidel) Ramos and (former National Security Adviser Jose) Almonte to return to power," he said.

Destabilization

Business groups aired a similar call, saying they were renewing their support for the Macapagal administration and calling for an end to the destabilization rumors that, they noted, were dragging down the economy.

In a statement, 14 major business groups led by the Makati Business Club and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry said: "The incessant attempts to manufacture coup scenarios and pursue other means to create an atmosphere of political instability and uncertainty, plus the daily hype provided by the media to all manner of irresponsible statements, will worsen our economic distress and undoubtedly set back our drive to alleviate poverty."

The groups said the country's leaders and citizens should pull together and concentrate on a common goal: to improve the poor state of the economy.

Economic numbers . . .

(From page A1)

Ibon's report belied the government's claim that the domestic economy was expanding as shown by the 2.9-percent GDP growth registered in the third quarter of last year.

It claimed that the growth of the domestic economy was actually "decelerating," with the growth rate slowing down by 1.9 percentage points from the second quarter of 2001 to the following quarter.

But Tujan was quick to add that this did not necessarily mean that Estrada was a better president and had a better economic policy than Ms Macapagal.

"That her first year has been difficult is an understatement," he said.

Tujan admitted that Ms Macapagal faced "extreme challenges" right after she assumed the presidency. These were aggravated by the global anti-terrorist war, the global economic crisis, terrorism by the Abu Sayyaf and the intense factional conflict among the local elite.

Mixed blessings

"President Macapagal came into power with mixed blessings. The extra-parliamentary character of Edsa II assured that there would be continued factional conflict and political instability," Tujan said.

He maintained that Estrada, on the other hand, had a higher popularity rating and his administration therefore enjoyed a semblance of political stability and higher business confidence.

"We're still very happy that we've done away with Erap. What matters anyway are not the figures, but how the President addresses the expectation of the masses," Tujan said.

He added that the "international circumstances" were different in 2000, with the Southeast Asian region on the road to recovery. But there is currently a recession even in the three largest economies of the world, the United States, Japan and Germany.

Erap to join Cory . . .

(From page A1)

here. Everything is just *katuwaan* (for fun). We are always pro-administration. We know that this is the Igorot Stairs. We do not mean to put any political color in it. But we know that if we have woodcarvings that look like the people who are known, we know that these will be a hit among tourists," said Leticia Oris, general manager of the Barrio Fiesta here, where the stairs are located.

Estrada's wooden figure, Oris said, "is still in Paete, Laguna. He's still being carved."

But where are the other Edsa figures, President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson?

Oris said Ms Macapagal's would be carved next. But Singson's may not join the cast at all, as Rodolfo Ongpauco, owner of Barrio Fiesta, is not inclined to commission one, she said.

She said Barrio Fiesta's main attractions were its 11 life-size figures and 12 12-foot wooden figures of Igorot icons like the *mumbaki* (native priest), deer hunter, Igorot maiden, headhunter, native warriors and the famous "man in the barrel."

Oris said the restaurant's management was planning to get an artist to make a bust of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the object of the 1986 Edsa uprising.

Estrada's life-size figure, which takes three months to complete, is expected to be ready by next month, in time for the 2002 Baguio Flower Festival.

First one

The first political figure to grace the 87-step Igorot Stairs was Ramos, whose likeness was installed in 2000. The figure, wearing the former President's trademark striped shirt and sporting a cigar, was also carved in Paete. The figure also flashes Ramos' signature "thumbs-up" sign.

The figures of Cardinal Sin, Aquino and assassinated ex-Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., were fashioned by Ifugao carvers in Asin village here, as were the 12-foot statues and most of the other figures on the stairs.

The figures are all made from acacia trees in Pangasinan and La Union.

Conceptualized in the late 1980s by Ongpauco, the Igorot Stairs has become a prime tourist attraction in the city.

The first figure that the restaurant featured, in 1995, was the Igorot deer hunter. Oris said Mateo Ugat and Felipe Tiad were among the Ifugao artists who carved the statues.

The steps showcase the most cherished values and traditions of the Igorots.

Figures of Igorot families, security guards and Igorot musicians also litter the stairs.

One attraction is the figure of an Igorot man urinating in front of a "*Bawal ang Umihi Dito*" (Don't urinate) sign. Another statue depicts a tourist texting.

The restaurant spent P100,000 for the 12-foot figures when it commissioned these in 1992.

"In 1992, the deer hunter was already worth P120,000, so you could just imagine how much it is worth now," Oris said.

She said the restaurant had to spend at least P5,000 for each statue's repair.

According to Oris, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Education Secretary Raul Roco and movie star Fernando Poe Jr. had a good laugh when they saw the figures.

Pañero, Big J end row: Ties go a long way

(From page A1)

way he did," said Jaworski after Cayetano had confronted him on the floor on Monday for signing the minority dissenting opinion on the committee report that cleared the latter of any wrongdoing in the BW Resources stock scandal.

Cayetano was piqued because Jaworski signed the minority opinion when he did not even attend a single hearing of the Senate committee on ethics.

"There's no problem, that was nothing," Jaworski said.

After holding a press conference Tuesday to answer the minority's call for his expulsion, Cayetano approached Jaworski on the floor to inform him that he had mentioned the name of the basketball legend as among those who signed the dissenting opinion without fully knowing the details of the case.

Jaworski countered by explaining to Cayetano that he had already studied the case through the Senate records and found the report inconsistent with the minutes of the hearings.

Cayetano cut short the conversation by asking: "Why should I be expelled?" He then turned his back on Jaworski and went to his seat.

But, yesterday, tension was eased by Drilon's move to get the two senators to shake hands. The two senators even exchanged high-fives to the delight of media photographers.

"(Jaworski) and I go a long way. In fact, my mother's life was prolonged because of him," Cayetano said.

Cayetano recalled how Jaworski came to ease his late mother's ailment after she had asked to see the basketball legend at her deathbed five years ago.

"(Jaworski) readily came and I will forever be grateful to him for that gesture," Cayetano said.

Still friends

He added that while he and Jaworski "may not agree on some things, our friendship will remain intact."

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Senate ethics committee chair, said the committee had cleared Cayetano of charges that he had illegally traded in stocks when he bought the BW shares over-the-counter.

The minority opinion said the committee report ignored the "personal" observation of Ruben Almadro, Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) chief investigator, that Cayetano's over-the-counter (OTC) purchase of 3 million BW shares was illegal.

"Aside from the fact that it was only Almadro's 'personal' opinion, we also got an official response from the Securities and Exchange Commission, which has authority over the PSE, that OTCs are standard practice," Pangilinan said.

Senators Juan Flavier and Loren Legarda said they voted in favor of the committee report because they agreed with the conclusion that there was no sufficient evidence during the hearings that would point to Cayetano as guilty.

The charge against Cayetano was filed by Crispin Remulla, spokesperson of the opposition Partido ng Masang Pilipino. The ethics committee heard the complaint for five months.

The call for Cayetano's removal from the Senate was spearheaded by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel and three minority members of the committee, namely Senators Blas Ople, Vicente Sotto III and Jaworski.

Dishonesty

Sen. Joker Arroyo accused the Senate minority in the ethics committee of "intellectual dishonesty" for presenting non-existent proofs in their dissenting opinion to justify their call to expel Cayetano.

Arroyo, vice chair of the committee, likened the call to Cayetano's ouster to "a gun with blank bullets, which can fire but can't hit."

He said the attempt of the minority to expel Cayetano was similar to the attempt to oust Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Arroyo said the so-called evidence against Cayetano as mentioned in the minority opinion was just a "wish list," which the minority senators had wanted to present but could not because they had no witnesses to support them.

The minority had insisted on the appearance of Dante Tan, chair of BW Resources, to determine whether Remulla's allegation was true, but the businessman was nowhere to be found.

"The problem with the minority is that they are lazy. Why do I say lazy? Out of the five hearings, each of their members attended only once. And the one who carries on the banner of the minority is the Minority Leader, Senator Pimentel, who is not even a member of the committee. He's only an ex-officio (member)," Arroyo said.

He said the minority opinion reminded him of the affidavit prepared by Atty. Raval from the office of Sen. Edgardo Angara on the alleged Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office scam exposed by former radio reporter Robert Rivero.

Arroyo said both the minority report and the Rivero affidavit were "intrigued with falsehoods."

Sen. Robert Barbers, for his part, said that the call for Cayetano's ouster was "exaggerated."

Barbers said the minority bloc should have presented evidence or witnesses to strengthen the complaint against Cayetano.

"Saying that his action was demeaning and caused damage to the Senate as an institution amounts to a hasty generalization because there was no anomalous transaction," Barbers said.

KUTITAP WINS

Welcoat nears PBL semis

GAMES TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Shark Energy Drink vs Montaña
5:30 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs Ana Freezers

By Dennis U. Eroa

JOJO Manalo sizzled as Welcoat Paints tripped International Container Terminal Services Inc-La Salle, 77-70, assuring itself of at least a playoff for a semifinal berth last night in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Manalo, a Coca Cola draftee, poured in 18 of his 24 points in the second half as the Paintmasters subdued the Archers in a see-sawing encounter.

PBA draftees Ren Ren Ritualo and Yancy de Ocampo also gave their best, contributing 15 and 13 points, respectively.

Welcoat, thus, tied ICTSI with a 9-5 card and will meet its victim on Saturday for a semifinal berth. Due to the quirks of the quotient system, the Paintmasters can even make it to the semis outright in case Montaña Jewels beat leader and defending Shark Energy Drink tomorrow.

Earlier, Kutitap Toothpaste finished its elimination campaign in a torrid note as it blasted Blu Detergent, 83-73. The Sparklers stretched their winning run to four as they gear up for the quarterfinals.

WELCOAT 77—Manalo 24, Ritualo 15, De Ocampo 13, Patrimonio 10, Cruz 5, Canlas 4, Tan 4, Encarnacion 2, Orfrecio 0.

ICTSI 70—Cortez 17, Daep 13, Uy 11, Wilson 8, Omolon 8, Franco 7, Yap 3, Cuan 2, Castro 1, Ramos 0, Manalo 0.

Quarters: 17-24,39-42,62-52,77-70

SPORTSWATCH

Shaq out for 3 games

NEW YORK—For once, Shaquille O'Neal can be thankful for his poor aim. The Los Angeles Lakers star drew a three-game suspension Monday from the NBA for throwing a punch and fighting with Chicago center Brad Miller. O'Neal actually threw at least two punches, the first of which barely missed the side of Miller's head. Had the roundhouse right from the 153-kilogram (340-pound), 2.14-meter (7-foot) center connected with full force, it's safe to assume that Miller would have been injured and O'Neal would have been facing a much longer suspension. NBA vice president Stu Jackson, who issued the suspension and a $15,000 fine, would not comment. The suspension will cost O'Neal about $800,000 in lost salary. He will be eligible to return Jan. 22 against Denver. The NBA also suspended Miller for one game for committing the flagrant foul that led to the fight. Bulls forward Charles Oakley was suspended for two games—one for accumulating too many flagrant foul points; the other for his simultaneous flagrant foul against O'Neal. *AP*

Boysen-Spring final

MULTITITLED Boysen Paints is favored over Spring cooking Oil-Oishi in their best-of-three showdown for the first JV Ejercito Cup basketball crown starting at 4 p.m. today at the San Juan Gym. Coach Rex Manansala pins his hopes on Lito Saygo, Murphy Limbo, Ceazar Rivera, Theody Habilito and Danilo Conmigo as the Boysen cagers try to add the Ejercito Cup to their long list of titles, including two in the Philippine Youth Basketball League. Boysen hurdled Wang's Ball Club in the semifinals last Saturday to barge into the finals against the cooking Oil Masters, who crushed La Union, 102-76, in another game.

Danceworx Dance Sports

DANCEWORX Dance Sports, a twice-a-week instructional program for dance enthusiasts, will start today at the fourth level of Festival Supermall in Alabang. The program, organized by GameworX Inc., will be held every Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to midnight and will offer group workshops, private teaching, and instructors and choreographers services. GameworX president Jesus "Jun" Avecilla and marketing manager Christian Datol will lead the inauguration of the new venue, while Philippine DanceSport Association chair Alberto Dimarucut and partner Deborah Civardi will be the guests of honor.

Firefly, R&B Farm lead

FIVE entries, led by battle-tested Firefly-Thunderbird 13 of the Firefly Group and R & B Farm II of Rep. Claude Bautista and Boyboy Roa, scored three smashing wins yesterday to lead the pack going into tonight's four-cock finals of the NCA 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. Sharing the lead in this blockbuster derby hosted by Boy de Roca, RFP, William Co and Dicky Lim and serving as the opening salvo of the 2002 World Slasher 8-Cock Derby on Jan. 21, 23, and 25 under the auspices of the National Cockers Association.

Nat'l derby stakes P5.5M

THE 12TH Anniversary P5.5-Million 7-Cock National Derby will be held at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City on Jan. 28 to Feb. 15. Popular sportsman-cocker Rolly Ligon will host this derby sponsored by Pit Fighter Slasher Nutrition and Casino Pilipino-Parañaque. Ligon said that for an entry fee of P16,500 and a minimum bet of P5,500, the winner will receive a cash prize of P5.5 million. Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty said the winning handler and gaffer will receive a bonus of P500,000 and P200,000, respectively.

Yao targets Ladies repeat

AMERICAN top seed Jennifer Capriati returns a shot in her 6-4, 6-1 victory over Croatian Silvija Talaja at the Australian Open Tennis Championships in Melbourne on Tuesday. Anna Kournikova bowed to Justine Hnin, 6-2, 7-5. Pete Sampras defeated Finland's Jarkko Nieminen, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4, in the men's side. AP

HARD WORK beckons for Aileen Rose Yao as she guns for a titular repeat against scratch player Ria Quiazon, former champion Carmelette Villaroman and a horde of challenges in the 2002 Philippine Ladies Open starting today at the west course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Quiazon, the many time national player taking a break from her studies in the US , has been tagged as the early favorite owing to the diminutive Yao's lack of tournament play since her dramatic win last year.

Yao won by a stroke after a heartbreaking double-bogey on the last hole by Taiwanese Hung Chin-huei.

Carmelette Villaroman, Wack Wack member Heidi Chua and Lina de Guzman are the other top local bets in the tourney supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Carlos Palanca Foundation, Nice Shot DNF, Sentry Fire & Theft Safes and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The foreign contingent is bannered by Sarah Henderson of the Hong Kong Golf Club who carries a handicap of +2.7. Players from England, New Zealand, Singapore and the United States are also in the cast.

Trophies designed by Arturo Luz will be awarded to the winners.

Delasin returns to US via PAL

DOROTHY Joy Delasin flew back to the United States via Philippine Airlines yesterday with her second PSA Athlete of they Year trophy, a P1 million gift from President Arroyo and lots of inspiration for her coming LPGA campaign.

Delasin made a surprise stop at the opening rites of the Philippine Ladies Open at Wack Wack yesterday before boarding the PAL flight that brought her back to Los Angeles where she was to take a connecting flight to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The country's flag carrier generously provided the Fil-Am standout in the LPGA with a business class ticket for her to personally receive the Athlete of the Year plum from the local sports scribes.

She will start her third season in the LPGA in Hawaii late in February. "I certainly appreciate PAL's support especially since they've always been there whenever I need to come over all these years," said Delasin before her departure.

PSA president Lito Tacujan also lauded PAL for giving them the opportunity to be with one of the two athletes who won the top award, the other being billiards artist Efren 'Bata' Reyes.

Dorothy's presence was certainly a highlight of the affair and we wish to thank PAL for making it possible," he said.

Fewer RP athletes in Asiad–PSC

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DUE TO the hard times, the Philippine Sports Commission is set to make drastic cut in the number of athletes going to the Busan Asian Games compared to the more than 400 bets the country sent four years ago.

PSC chair Butch Tuason yesterday said the country can no longer afford to duplicate the 1998 Bangkok Asiad where the Philippines fielded a total of 606 athletes and officials.

He added that the PSC is set to meet with Philippine Olympic Committee representatives to form the Asian Games task force which will set a strict criteria for athletes aspiring for slots in the Asian Games in September.

Shoo-ins for Asiad stints are track and field athletes, who have embarked on an intensive training in Baguio, eyeing to win at least seven medals for the country.

"I still don't want to commit any gold medal for the Asian Games," said Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok. "But so far my athletes have surpassed at least three gold medal marks in the 2000 Asian Championships."

He was referring to Eduardo Buenavista and John Lozada, both 2001 Southeast Asian Games winners, who, according to Go, are slowly reaching their peak performance.

Bill Shaw Classic stakes 3 cars for aces

FLORO

IT'S cars galore once more when the 13th Bill Shaw Memorial Golf Classic unfolds Jan. 25-26 at the Wack Wack Golf & Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

Two cars from both Toyota Motor Philippines and Toyota Otis will be staked as hole-in-one prizes together with another car from regular patron Mitsubishi Motor Philippines and another vehicle from S.C. Kymco Pilipinas.

"This is again our humble way of showing our gratitude to our dear Wack Wack members whose support for our club through the years has never waned one bit," said Bones Floro, Wack Wack golf director.

The scramble type format will be used in the two-day tournament principally sponsored by Herma Corporation, Taylor Made adidas, Tanduay Distillery, Golforce, Bingo Bonanza, Unilever Philippines and PNOC-EDC.

Among the early entries in the member-guest tournament include Chito Macapagal and his partner actor Vic Sotto, Gabby Villareal and partner Polo Pantaleon, Joey Romasanta and partner Andy Dumlao and NGAP president Rod Feliciano, who has yet to name his partner. All fun prizes, said Floro, will be sponsored by Lacoste Sports Sunglasses.

Anywhere but Clark

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

(ALMARIO ACE. Business-sportsman Mario "Dodong" Almario, a Cebu Hall of Famer and noted competition yatchtsman who gave the Philippines her only gold medal so far in sailing in the Southeast Asian Games, scored a hole-in-one over the weekend at the 159-yard Hole No. 12 of Alabang Golf and Country Club. He used a Lynx Parallax 6 iron and a Precept MC ball in scoring the ace while playing in a foursome with former Misamis Oriental Rep. Victorico "Concoy" Chaves, Edward Chiongbian and Joe Jalbuena. It was his fourth hole-in-one.)

I HOPE they could prove me wrong and show that there are holes in my logic, but I'm repeating what I have been saying again and again and again: Clark Field is not the ideal place to build a costly sports complex and serve as a venue for the 2005 SEA Games because there are confirmed reports about the presence of toxic waste in the former American military base that will be harmful to the physical and mental health of the athletes who will be training there.

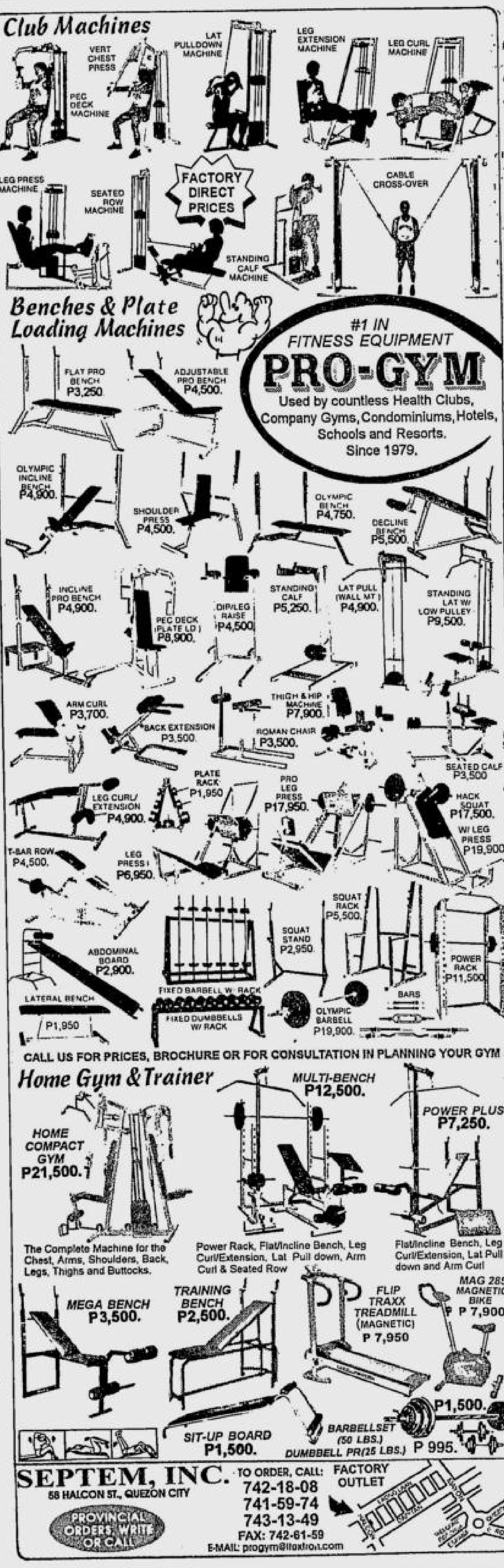
Clark Development Corp. and Pampanga officials, led by CDC president and chief executive officer Dr. Emmanuel Angeles and provincial board member Yeng Guiao, are preparing the province's bid to host the 2005 SEA Games and build a billion-peso state-of-the-art sports complex should Pampanga win the bidding.

They are ill-advised to purse the bid and carry out that grandiose plan of constructing a sports complex inside the former US base. First of all is the toxic waste issue. According to many environmentalists, there have been at least 80 deaths resulting from drinking contaminated water at the Clark evacuation area where 20,000 families were evacuated after the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991. They added more deaths are expected to happen in the next few years if the hazardous wastes left by the Americans remain unclean in the area.

And speaking of the SEA Games, former PSC commissioner and now Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella and outspoken track and field president Go Teng Kok should be glad to know that Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit has denied having endorsed Manila as the center of activities for the Games which the city hosted in 1981 and 1991, adding that the controversial POC guideline should not be construed as favoring Manila over the other SEAG bidders.

Recall that earlier, Go had said, "That guideline only gives unfair advantage to Manila and dampens the enthusiasm of other aspiring hosts to pursue their campaign." A known critic of the present POC leadership, Go had also asked: "What more can the other bidders expect when Dayrit has already declared that Manila will be the main hub of the SEA Games?"

On the other hand, Puentevella, chair of the House Committee on Youth and Sports, said the POC should stop promoting Manila as SEA Games host because it is unfair to the other bidders. Aside from Bacolod City and Pampanga, the other bidders are the cities of Cebu and Naga and, lately, the cities of Davao, General Santos, Cotabato, Marbel and Kidapawan all in Mindanao. The POC has set the deadline for the submission of bids this Sunday, Jan. 20.



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SPORTS

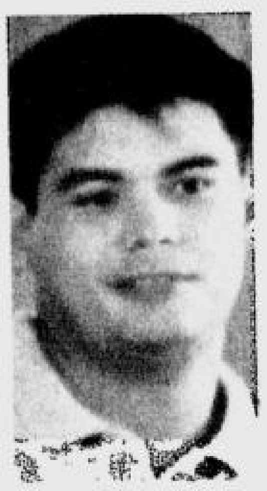
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▦ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Maripola bowling today

THE MARIPOLA Invitational Bowling Tournament will be held today at the Powerball of the Rockwell Center in Makati City. The event will use the nine (9) tap format. Seeing action include bowling greats Claudette and Jose Santiago, alley couple Nepthy and Malu del Rosario, Manolo and Maritess Lopez and Cuchi and Ditas Lerma. The tournament is part of the birthday celebration of Mutya ng Pilipinas Polly Penson-Aquino, also past president of Martha's Vineyard Incorporated.

SALARY CAP VIOLATIONS

PBA: Tanduay must pay ₱14M


GAYOSO

By June Navarro

TANDUAY will have to cough up at least P14 million in fines before the PBA clears the way for its departure.

Tanduay officials found this out after the PBA Commissioner's Office recently ruled that the Rhummasters had violated the league's salary cap rules.

A reliable source told the INQUIRER the PBA Commissioner's Office came up with this decision during the league's Board of Governors meeting last week at the Edsa Plaza Hotel.

The Commissioner's Office based its conclusion on former Tanduay cager Jayvee Gayoso's statements.

Gayoso said Tanduay violated salary cap rules by giving their players more than the amount stipulated in the Uniform Players' Contract (UPC).

Gayoso, who retired last year, earned at least P3.5 million or 25 percent of Tanduay's penalty as commission for blowing the whistle on Tanduay.

The P14.1 million slapped Tanduay was the Rhummasters' television earnings in the league for the 2001 PBA season.

The source said the board turned down Tanduay's appeal during the same meeting.

"Tanduay has to pay because if we forget this incident, it might serve as a precedent for future violators," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The case first surfaced when Rhummaster Pido Jarencio was shipped to Pop Cola, which assumed the rest of his contract with Tanduay.

Pop Cola found out that Jarencio allegedly signed a secret contract with Tanduay, which pays him more than what was stated in his original pact with the Rhummasters.

The secret contract, however, has never been found.

The Commissioner's Office next conducted a series of investigations.

Gayoso testified that he was receiving more than his P200,000-P250,000 monthly wage he was supposed to earn by virtue of a "side contract" without the knowledge of the PBA Commissioner's Office.

Telan offered ₱13.3M

ALASKA yesterday offered P13.3-million to Mark Telan for three years. A source said the 6-foot-7 shooting forward would get P335,000 a month during the first year, P375,000 on the second until it increases to P400,000 on the last year. Talk N Text, which owns the rights on Telan after acquiring the former La Salle standout in a trade recently with Shell, has five days to match the offer.

Meanwhile, Sta. Lucia Realty put five players from its championship roster on the trading block. They are playmaker Donbel Belano, Marvin Ortiguerra, Jercules Tangkay, Angelo David and Bryan Orquillias.

June Navarro

Loyzaga new MBA 'komish'

LOYZAGA

CHITO Loyzaga is the new commissioner of the Metropolitan Basketball Association, Santi Araneta, chair of the Multi-Regional Basketball Inc., announced. Loyzaga, a burly 6-foot-2 who played center-forward-guard during his heyday, signed a three-year contract.

"The MBA board welcomes a good leader like Chito. We believe he'll be able to steer the league to greater heights," said Araneta, owner of 2001 national titlist LBC Batangas Blades.

Said Loyzaga: "I've always believed in the regional concept. I am excited to be a part of the sport that is close to my heart. I will take this position to contribute to the development of basketball in the country."

The 43-year-old Loyzaga spent 12 seasons playing with Toyota, Tanduay, Great Taste and Ginebra in the PBA where he posted career-averages of 9.3 points and 4.4 rebounds, respectively. He was a seven-time member of the all-defensive team and also reached the 5,000-point, 500-assist plateau.

Chito is the oldest son of Caloy "The Big Difference" Loyzaga, who was named Greatest Filipino Basketball Player of all-time during the league inaugurals in Lingayen, Pangasinan, in 1998.

The younger Loyzaga, a product of San Beda College, replaced Butch Antonio, who resigned to pursue a new career. Ramon Fernandez was the first commissioner followed by lawyer Ogie Narvasa.

Ramon Tuason, MBA director for marketing and business development, said the appointment of Loyzaga coupled with the entry of National Broadcasting Network Channel 4 reflects the newfound stability of the league, which is reverting to its original concept of grassroots development.

Omanzie wants 1,000-sq m lot from Sta. Lucia; it's poverty alleviation for Se at Batang Red Bull

TOLOMIA

RODRIGUEZ

SE

By Dennis U. Eroa

SHOTBLOCK artist Omanzie Rodriguez wants a 1,000-square-meter lot. A PBA stint will lift Homer Se's family from poverty.

And Chester Tolomia has impressed Ginebra coach Allan Caidic so much a contract is forthcoming for the Shark Energy Drink standout before Friday's deadline to sign up those recruited from the PBA Draft on Sunday.

Rodriguez, a 6-foot-6 former Mapua star who keyed Andok's San Juan's victory in the MBA last year, will use the 1,000-square-meter lot from Sta. Lucia to build an "apartment complex for my future."

"This is a way of securing Omanzie's future," said Ed Fonceja, Rodriguez's manager. "Maybe in the fourth year of his contract, he'll be able to receive no less than P400,000 monthly."

The 6-foot-5 Se, formerly of the Cebu Gems, wants a contract with Batang Red Bull worth P12-14 million.

Albert Almendralejo, Se's manager, said they are meeting with Red Bull officials today to finalize the talks.

Se said the PBA has been a lifelong dream.

"This is a dream come true," he said. "I'm not ashamed to tell the whole world that playing in the PBA will save my family from poverty."

The 6-foot-2 Tolomia, a product of the University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, is expected to augment Ginebra's backcourt led by Mark Caguioa.

"Chester is going to help the team and I hope to finalize things before Friday," said Caidic. Other Ginebra hopefuls are playmaker Aries Dimaunahan and Gilbert Malabanan.

Jesse Chua, Tolomia's adviser, said dealing with Caidic "is easy."

Said Chua: "I once served as team manager of the University of the East where Caidic was the star player. I know that Caidic is a man of his word and I expect Chester to get his wish Friday."

According to a PBA ruling, rookies are given a maximum of P200,000 a month in their initial year. MBA players who were drafted are not considered rookies and thus are free from the salary cap.

Bryant scores 56 as Lakers beat Grizzlies

LOS ANGELES —Kobe Bryant made certain the two-time defending NBA champion Lakers wouldn't miss suspended star Shaquille O'Neal on Monday, as Los Angeles thrashed the Memphis Grizzlies 120-81. Bryant, playing with O'Neal's No. 34 scrawled in black ink on the side of both shoes, scored a career-high 56 points - most in an NBA game this season - despite sitting out the fourth quarter. Bryant's previous career high was 51 points at Golden State on Dec. 5, 2000, and the previous NBA best this season was 53 by San Antonio's Tim Duncan in a 126-123 overtime loss to Dallas on Dec. 26.

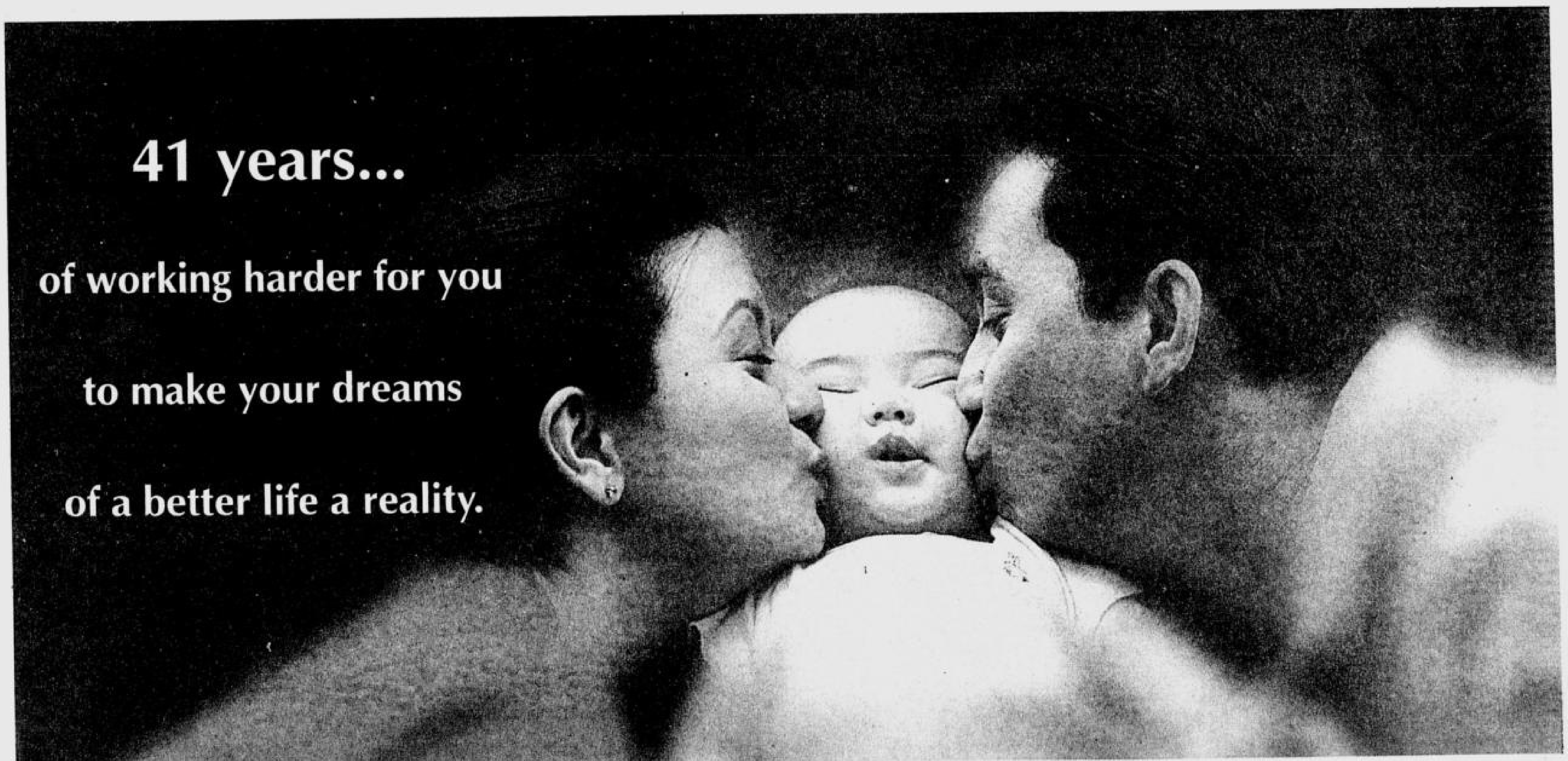
FedEx gets 2 imports

THANKS to the double-import format and the coming Asian Games, FedEx is optimistic it won't be thrashed around in the PBA Commissioner's Cup which begins on Feb. 10.

"The focus will be on the imports and coach Derick Pumaren is confident that his prospective choices have what it takes to make an impact in the league," said FedEx president Lito Alvarez during the PSA Forum at Holiday Inn yesterday.

Pumaren went to the United States during the holidays and picked Kaniel Dickens and Rodrick Rhodes to serve as the Express imports. If Pumaren's choices fail to live up to expectations, Alvarez said FedEx can enlist the services of former FedEx Laguna Lakers star Chris Clay as an import.

Roy Luarca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METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Poor say GMA failed to fulfill promise A20
Forgers busted A20

‘Bleeding host’ draws crowds

THE APPEARANCE of what could be blood on a desecrated host has been attracting hundreds of Catholic faithful as well as the merely curious to the St. John the Baptist church in Taytay, Rizal.

Church workers, who asked not to be identified, said streaks of what looked like blood were found early Monday night in the cup containing the host. The cup, half-filled with water, was placed beside the church's wooden tabernacle, where undefiled hosts are stored.

As a Church practice, a desecrated host is put in a cup with water and is set near the tabernacle until it is completely dissolved, the INQUIRER learned.

"When the host is dissolved, the water is used to water plants adorning the altar," explained Fr. Ben

BLEEDING HOST/ A20

Barricades to stop opening of landfill

BY NELSON F. FLORES

RODRIGUEZ, Rizal—A congressman and former local officials of this town will lead residents and religious and environmentalist groups in forming human barricades to prevent the opening of the Montalban landfill tomorrow.

Second district Rep. Isidro Rodriguez Jr., former Mayor Joselito San Diego and former Vice Mayor Joselito San Jose would lead the protesters, according to a statement from them.

Rodriguez yesterday pledged to leaders of the People's Initiative Against the Landfill Project and of the Mamamayan ng Montalban Ayaw sa Basura (MMAB) that he would exhaust all legislative and legal means to stop the sanitary landfill project.

Rodriguez said the landfill project was undertaken in secrecy without proper municipal legislation and public hearings as well as the required national permits.

Both San Diego and San Jose said the landfill development flagrantly violated a Sangguniang Panlalawigan resolution which

BARRICADES/ A20

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The Secret, according to Efren 'Bata' Reyes

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE MAN was obviously unaware that he has done something happily mysterious.

The series of sensational wins scored by billiards wonder worker Efren "Bata" Reyes late last year is one for the books.

In fact, the incredible feat landed him on the pages of Time Magazine.

Time itself sent over a team to the Angeles City base of Bata Reyes. But, despite the swooning three-page feature on Reyes in the Dec. 21 issue of the international magazine, nothing clear came out on how Reyes was able to string up those jackpot wins.

The case required a little investigation.

So, as earlier promised, your reporter here tried to corner the billiards legend during last Friday's Philippine Sportswriters Association awards night at the Holiday Inn.

He was there. Reyes had come early, way ahead of other awardees. He was seated at the presidential table, sporting a new haircut and the patented *kanto*-boy moustache.

Unlike presidential spokesperson Bobi Tiglao, who checked in a little later, Bata had no prepared speech with him. Bata sat there often staring at the crowd. He didn't know he would have to make an acceptance speech later.

Then it was time for Bata to rise and ask the waiter the way to the comfort room.

* * *

When he neared the main ballroom exit, I stood in his path.

Bata recognized me, an old chum from the early '80s, and he readily flashed his famous toothless smile, at the same time giving me a hug.

Congratulations, I said, so how were you able to come back from the second straight setback in the Cardiff World Pool Championship?

Bata just smiled and scratched his head. Nothing really, he explained, it was all plain luck, *sinuwerte lamang.*

He then tried to move on, but I stood my ground. Come on, tell me the truth, what happened, how did you do it?

Tsamba lamang talaga, it was just the breaks, he parried, sounding a bit apologetic.

What about Jeanette Lee?

Why, he asked, his chinky eyes now glowing wide.

How hard, how long did you prepare for that duel with her at the Casino Filipino last year?

Of course, I prepared hard, he said. *Dibdiban talaga. Mahirap na, baka mapahiya.*

But tell me how hard.

Bata tarried but he finally broke down.

He next explained how he had to take a special regimen. He said he made extra exercises to perfect his grip and re-develop a steadier pulse. *Iba talaga, napaka-importante ang pulso.*

* * *

Thank you, I said. Bata again tried to disengage himself. I did not move.

One final question: Did the preparation, the conditioning against the Black Widow, in any way prove useful in your succeeding competitions abroad?

Yes, yes, of course, it did, Bata agreed wholeheartedly. *Natapat na rin, kaya siguro naging maganda ang mga resulta.*

That's it. From that *mano-a-mano* with Jeanette Lee, Bata left for California where he handily topped the L.A. Masters. He next flew to Poland where he won the prestigious World Pool Series in Warsaw that featured the best in the world, including 2001 Cardiff champion Mika Immonen.

From Poland, it was to the Tokyo 9-Ball Open, where he pocketed the $160,000 top money.

All in all, Bata bared that what he had scored last October was the finest streak he ever had since first breaking into the international scene by topping 1985 Texas Open where he was initially labeled the Wildcat from Asia.

Yes, Bata agreed, that series with the Black Widow did help a lot.

It was no secret how hard he had to train for the series with the female pool standout.

Reasoned Bata: *Eh paano kung matalo ka sa babae, 'di kahiya-hiya? Hindi na bale sa lalaki, pero kung kay* Jeanette Lee, *'di nakakatawa ka.*

* * *

Anyway, shortly after receiving his Athlete of the Year award from President Gloria Mapacagal-Arroyo at the Holiday Inn on Friday, Bata was back at centerstage on Monday.

Visibly overwhelmed by the accolades and a P1-million incentive from the President, Bata Reyes made a hefty vow. He said the RP billiards team would bring home at least three gold medals from the Asian Games slated in Pusan, Korea in September.

In the last Asiad in Bangkok, the Philippines won only one gold medal through the 9-ball pair of Snooky Villanueva and Gande Valle.

Bata was not ready to tell what special training they would be willing to undergo to ensure victory in Pusan.

It should not, however, be a laughing surprise if Bata Reyes himself lines up another special series with the lovely Black Widow, Jeanette Lee, for the entire RP billiards team to the Asian Games.

It's no longer a secret how playing with a lovely lady can work wonders for gold-medal seekers.

Yakuza suspects refused entry

By Norman Bordadora

THREE suspected members of the dreaded Yakuza of Japan were refused entry into the country after they admitted to local immigration authorities their membership in the widespread criminal network.

Immigration intelligence officer Rudy David said Takemura Tsutomu, 53, Ioji Tamai, 53, and Nobotushi Okita, 45, arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on board a Thai Airways flight from Kansai, Japan.

David said their arrival might have confirmed earlier reports that several crime groups from Japan planned to meet in Manila to discuss their operations in the coming year. They are reportedly planning to put up legitimate businesses as fronts for their criminal activities.

Immigration authorities held the three suspects and upon interrogation, confirmed their membership in the Yakuza. When they were body-checked, they were found to have tattoos that further verified their involvement with the criminal syndicate.

They were ordered to board a return flight of Thai Airways to Japan.

QC shuts down 7

THE QUEZON City government has closed down seven commercial establishments in the Ocean Theater building at Edsa-Cubao for operating without permits and for violation of health measures.

Rolando Montiel. city general services office head, said Ocean Theater was only one of the public properties that the city government was planning to recover to raise funds to pay debts it reportedly inherited from the previous administration.

Among the establishments closed were the Mr. Manly Department Store, People's Martial Arts and three mini-theaters in the building.

Montiel said their mayor's permits expired last March and management did not do anything to renew them.

The city health department said the establishments had been operating without sanitary permits and with inadequate water and toilet facilities.

Adult films were also found being shown in the mini-theaters without the necessary authorization.

Agnes E. Donato

SOLUSYON SA
KAHIRAPAN: BAGUHIN
SISTEMA NG LIPUNAN

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

CHILDREN join their parents at the Parola Compound barricade, led by Sanlakas.

Forgers busted

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) confiscated P500,000 in fake peso bills and broke up a notorious syndicate that made counterfeit money in San Mateo, Rizal.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said his men confiscated 497 pieces of fake P1,000 bills and 113 fake P500 bills from the lair of the 10 suspects, who included four couples, in Ampid, San Mateo, Rizal.

He identified the suspects as couples Rogelio "Boy" and Elizabeth Sta. Maria, of Salamat Street, San Mateo; Roberto and Gina Sta. Maria, both of De Jesus Street, Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City; Felixberto and Nena Milalos, of Dalandan Street, Valenzuela; and Jun and Marilou Simon, of Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

The other suspects were Jelina M. Villanueva, 49, of Batasan Hills, and Roger V. Ramos, 32, of Bagong Barrio, Wycoco said.

He said Rogelio Sta. Maria was the syndicate's mastermind.

Lawyer Elfren Meneses Jr., head of the NBI's Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division, said his section received an intelligence report from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas cash department that a syndicate making fake peso bills was operating in San Mateo.

Meneses said the NBI and BSP agents conducted surveillance operations and identified Sta. Maria and the others as the culprits.

The bureau secured a search warrant from Judge Enrico A. Lanzanas of Branch 7 of the Manila Regional Trial Court.

On Jan. 10, a joint team of NBI and BSP agents raided the house of Rogelio Sta. Maria and caught the suspects.

"All the suspects, said to be distributors, were caught in possession of counterfeit peso bills and paraphernalia used in their production," Meneses said.

He said NBI agents also confiscated a gray Toyota Corolla (UBV 467) which also yielded fake bills.

The suspects are detained at the NBI jail after they were charged with forgery, he said.

4 killed in Bulacan accident

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Four people were killed and five others were injured when their jeepney collided with a truck in Barangay Bulihan here on Tuesday.

Police identified the dead as Julian Asuncion, 58; Lucinda Asuncion, 55; Jullie Anne Asuncion, 23; and Mark Anthony Asuncion, 12, all of Alido subdivision in Baliuag town.

Injured were Elizabeth Asuncion, 40; Rolly Francisco; Cherry Asuncion, 19; Joey Asuncion, 20 and Joshua Asuncion, 5. They were taken to the Bulacan Provincial Hospital here.

Reports said the group came from Pangasinan and was on its way to this town when the accident happened along the McArthur Highway.

An Isuzu Elf truck driven by Felimon Sanchez, 25, hit the jeepney, police said.

Police said witnesses saw Sanchez's northbound truck swerving to the opposite lane minutes before the collision.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, January 16, 2002
1st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **1 S 3:1-10, 19-20**
Gospel: **Mk 1:29-39**

As soon as Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, Jesus went to the home of Simon and Andrew with James and John. As Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with fever, they immediately told him about her. Jesus went to her and taking her by the hand, raised her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening at sundown, people brought to Jesus all the sick and those who had evil spirits: the whole town was pressing around the door. Jesus healed many who had various diseases, and drove out many demons; but he did not let them speak, for they knew who he was.

Very early in the morning, before daylight, Jesus went off to a lonely place where he prayed. Simon and the others went out, too, searching for him; and when they found him they said, "Everyone is looking for you." Then Jesus answered, "Let's go to the nearby villages so that I may preach there too; for that is why I came."

So Jesus set out to preach in all the synagogues throughout Galilee; he also cast out demons.

Commentary

Jesus enters the house of Peter bringing with him health and peace. Jesus shows us how to visit the sick. What a natural thing to do when Mass ends (on leaving the synagogue) – to go to see the sick. The care and love of our sisters and brothers attracts God's favors upon them. Half of humanity is sick one way or another. A great part of our life is spent dealing with suffering. We need to be healed of diseases and demons that ruin our search for meaning and happiness. Our body can tell us who we are and what we need. Let us care for and listen to our body and its aches. Listen also to our demons; they know us, we must check what they have to say but allow them not to rule.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (OBLIGATIONS AND CONTRACTS)—Consensual nature of a contract—A contract is consensual in nature, and it can only be perfected upon a concurrence of the offer and the acceptance. The offer must be certain and the acceptance must be absolute, unconstitutional and without variance of any sort from the proposal. A qualified acceptance constitutes a counter-offer. Such a qualified acceptance cannot be the equivalent of consent and it will, in fact, have the effect of a rejection or an annulment of the original offer. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, Uy v. Evangelista, G.R. No. 140365, July 11, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Poor say GMA failed to fulfill promise

By Philip C. Tubeza

THREE days before the first anniversary of Edsa Dos, the urban poor of Tondo, Manila set up barricades at the Parola Compound to protest what they called as the Arroyo administration's failure to distribute the plots of land it promised them.

The militant group Sanlakas yesterday led 2,000 members of the Alyansa ng Maralita sa Tondo (Alamat) and Alyansa sa Parola (Alpa) in protesting Presidential Proclamation No. 96, which granted only 9.6 hectares "of the 21 hectares of the entire compound" for about 10,500 families.

The protesters said the President's unfulfilled promise shows she has not really done much to uplift the condition of the masses, the main constituency of the deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"While the proclamation grants the housing project in our community, we remain firm that it would be physically impossible for 10,500 families to fit in 9.6 hectares, notwithstanding the confusion as to who are (the) legitimate beneficiaries of the proclamation," said barangay council member Carlota Moreno in a press statement.

"For us, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has fallen short of her promise to provide adequate housing for the poor, and we see Proclamation No. 96 as a clear (example)," Moreno said.

The protesters set up the barricades about 1 a.m. yesterday and demanded "on-site development or a self-help development of the site."

The protesters also made an effigy of the planned housing units that would be set up at the Parola Compound.

The group also asked the government "if possible, to be able to purchase the land at a reasonable price."

"We also demand that the entire 21 hectares of the compound be granted to us as the government's land project and for them to ensure that Parola residents would benefit from the housing project," said Moreno.

"It is also our wish that all organizations in our community gain direct representation from the planning, decision-making, and implementation stages of the project," she added.

The administration had been actively courting the masses, particularly the urban poor in Manila after the violent "Edsa Tres" protests last year. The urban poor of the metropolis make up the majority of those who tried to attack Malacañang Palace on May 1 last year.

Barricades to stop opening of landfill

(From page A19)

prohibits the construction of landfill sites in any Rizal town, and a Rodriguez municipal resolution which prohibits the construction of landfill sites in the town.

Opposition to the Montalban landfill project has snowballed after Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and current Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo jointly announced on Monday that the Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) landfill would be fully operational starting tomorrow.

The dumpsite, an abandoned open pit quarry in Sitio Lukutan Maliit, Barangay San Isidro, will take 2,000 tons of garbage daily from Metro Manila in the next seven years, according to Abalos.

Mamamayan ng Montalban Ayaw sa Basura (MMAB) convenor Dr. Pastor Cruz said the landfill would not only endanger the lives of Rodriguez residents but would also contaminate the adjoining La Mesa water reservoir since it is located within the MWSS watershed area.

But Abalos said the landfill site is 20 kilometers away from the town proper and far from any river or waterways, and poses no danger to people and the environment.

Cuerpo appealed to all his political opponents to exercise sobriety and use reason in protesting the landfill opening. But he said he has ordered the local police to exercise maximum tolerance in dealing with the protesters, even as he warned that the police were also given orders not to hesitate in arresting those who would initiate violence.

Cuerpo said Cruz and his allies should observe the legal process and should respect the law. He stressed that only a court could stop him from opening the landfill.

He said Cruz and his people were given ample opportunity to stop the opening of the landfill but all their efforts failed due to the absence of popular support.

Earlier, Cuerpo's political opponents asked the municipal council to enact an ordinance calling for a referendum to determine the fate of the landfill, but failed to get support.

Cuerpo said the sanitary landfill would bring P4 billion to the town coffers in three years, more than enough to develop the town into a bustling municipality of Rizal province. The municipality only has a budget of P85 million annually, he said.

He said the construction of the 30-meter wide service road leading to the dumpsite would open the municipality to development at no expertise to local residents. He said the road, which would be built at a cost of at least P180 million, would also serve as an alternative route to the municipality.

He explained that at present, "there is only one road leading to Rodriguez and that is the narrow national highway, which has become so crowded that traffic congestion is now a common sight in the once sleepy town."

But former vice mayor San Jose said Cuerpo and his political allies in the municipal council ignored all opposition to the construction of a sanitary landfill despite mounting public protest.

"Only three out of the 10 councilors voted against the landfill," San Jose said.

"We have 1,600 signatories to our petition, more than enough to force the municipal council of Rodriguez to enact an ordinance that would call for a plebiscite," San Jose stressed. Rodriguez has 63,000 registered voters.

'Bleeding host' draws ...

(From page A19)

Gueverra, the Taytay parish priest.

The Inquirer learned that 10 days ago, the host accidentally fell to the ground during Mass.

Since news of the "bleeding host" spread, hundreds of people have been trooping to the 55-year-old church. Some people were clearly moved and cried while others were apparently just curious, according to a female church worker.

A priest, who also asked not to be identified, said "something definitely happened" but he refused to elaborate. He said there was little chance that the cup containing the host was contaminated.

"All I felt was awe and wonder when I saw the cup," the priest said.

Bishop Crisostomo Yalung of the Diocese of Antipolo ordered the transfer of the host to the Antipolo City cathedral for examination.

The Inquirer tried to contact Bishop Yalung in his office, but a secretary said he was not available.

Nelson F. Flores

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PHILAM PLANS

Lakbayan 2001

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Editor
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AGGIE PINILI, Account Manager

They started as dreamers

SEVERAL years ago, a certain Francisco "Mang Kiko" Bautista, Aurelio "Boy" Clariño or Carol Bautista may have come to your life. They were your ordinary people offering their idea of a secured life through the plans that they introduced.

But what made them distinct from the other ordinary people that you may have met was they had dreams, and they worked toward the fulfillment of these dreams.

Mang Kiko, Boy and Carol are three different people of varied backgrounds and interests. Through Philam Plans, where they all started as sales associates, they, as well as their families, are now enjoying a financially secured life. They were able to send their children to the country's prestigious schools eventually making them successful professionals in their respective fields. They enjoy opportunities to see the world through Philam Plans' travel incentives. They have made investments in real estates and have found fulfillment in the knowledge that they are able to secure the life of people through the products they provide.

Here, we share their life stories which confirm that success in life does not discriminate anyone.

We hope this will inspire you to also take bold steps to plan your future.

As the popular Chinese proverb says, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." And for would-be dreamers that first single step should be taken now!

From delivering letters to delivering a secured life

BY JOEL V. NIGOS

FOR Francisco Bautista, or Mang Kiko as he is fondly called, life is a rags-to-riches story.

But beyond the plot and the elements of his life story are the realizations of life, insights gained, plans pursued and more importantly the dreams fulfilled.

Born youngest in a brood of seven, he didn't have the chance to get to know a father who died when he was only two.

He vividly recalls, however, that way back in 1957, he and his mother worked as household help to a well-known family in Lipa City.

"We didn't receive any salary then, we were just provided meals and stayed at their house for free," relates Mang Kiko.

It was his siblings who helped him get through elementary and high school.

"Before I finished high school, I knew nobody would sent me to college so I told my classmate then that whomever will finance my schooling, we will sign a contract where we will share half of the salary I'll receive in the future," Mang Kiko remembers. Nobody took his offer.

But that did not discourage him.

In 1959, he worked as a mailman but his employment was not regular. Sometimes he would have a job for a week only to lose it on the next week. He received a meager salary of P40 per month where the minimum wage then was P120.

BAUTISTA

"It was in 1959 when my career with Philam Life, the mother company of Philam Plans, started. I attended a seminar and I eventually became a sales associate. My first commission then was P13," says Mang Kiko.

He was eventually hired as a regular mailman in 1962. By that time, he was doubling as an agent. There, he found an opportunity.

"After I delivered a letter, I scheduled an appointment with the recipient so I can offer him the plans," he says.

The rest, as always told, is history.

Now, what Mang Kiko can only do is to enumerate the enormous benefits he's enjoying from the time he started as a sales associate of Philam.

"My children finished schooling from prestigious universities in Manila and are now successful professionals. The other two are studying right now at La Salle and at Arellano Law School," says Mang Kiko.

He describes their life now as comfortable and hopes that it would be the same for his children's children.

"I have three vehicles and I also have a personal driver. I have invested in lands and I have my own fishponds in Agoncillo, Batangas. I also have other properties in Lipa City," relates Mang Kiko.

He adds that because of Philam Plans, he was also able to travel yearly. He had gone to Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Las Vegas in the United States, and Beijing, China, fulfilling his dreams to travel when he was in high school. This is through the Globetrotters Program conceptualized by the pre-need company as incentive trip for their top sales producer.

Mang Kiko says that if he's not with Philam Plans he may have continued working as a mailman where he may have also retired now. He adds that he and his family may not be enjoying the kind of life they have now as well as may not have sustained the needs of his family since he has seven children.

He says that to be successful people should be hardworking and should not be shy—two qualities he believes helped him get to where he is now.

As Mang Kiko puts it: *"Dapat siya ay masipag at marunong magpaliwanag sa tao. Di siya dapat nahihiyang humarap sa tao."*

Now 63, Mang Kiko can only look ahead to a secured and comfortable life together with his family in Philam Plans.

Former cager dribbles his way to fortune

AURELIO Clariño knew that his career as a basketball player was just temporary. He understood that there would come a time when nobody would need his services anymore and all the adulation of the fans would die down. Knowing this, he began to plan his future.

CLARIÑO

Boy, as he is more popularly known, played in the PBA for eight years, from 1975 to 1982. He was one of the original players of the fabled Toyota squad where he donned its uniforms for two and a half years. He then transferred to U/Tex and Presto, and finally teamed-up with Ginebra, from 1981 to 1982, before he left the pro league.

After the PBA, he tried his luck coaching. He later played as guest in the Philippine Amateur Basketball League (now PBL) and also went abroad.

Little did he know that the key to the fortune that he was seeking was just beside him waiting.

Since his wife has been active with Philam Life, she invited him to join her. In 1990, he decided to attend one of Philam Life's seminars. He eventually became one of its sales associates.

Now a senior agency manager and handling one district and 12 unit managers of sister company Philam Plans, Clariño can't help but recall the insights he gained throughout his stay with the pre-need company.

"My being a basketball player helped me acquire self-discipline and to advance in my career here at Philam Plans," says Clariño.

He says that it was basketball which nurtured his self-discipline. Since he had also worked as a consultant for some time, he also acquired management skills.

"I have met a lot of people from various socio-economic strata because of basketball. It advanced my social skills aside from meeting new prospects from them," says Clariño.

Clariño says that this helps him a lot in his career with Philam Plans.

"I was able to send all of my children to the country's prestigious schools like UP, UST and La Salle. They are now either successful in their respective fields or are still studying in these reputable schools," he adds.

When asked what to tell people so they could also achieve what he had reached, he says: "You cannot predict your future, you have to plan your life now."

Clariño says that he's a straightforward person and his way of motivating people is to ask them questions which could encourage them and help them realize what really are needed in their life.

Clariño believes in the philosophy that if one just works to achieve the life he wants, he'll be able to enjoy it.

Joel V. Nigos

'Different strokes for different folks'

FOR a lot of people, it helps to have guiding principles that they can adhere to as they go through life.

Recalling her life from the time she became a sales associate of Philam Plans, Carol Bautista says it's her principles that propelled her to the top.

"I believe in different strokes for different folks," relates Carol as she explains how she motivates people to become Philam Plans sales associates and eventually receive the benefits she and her family are enjoying right now.

Yes, indeed! It may be the carrot for some people or the stick for others. But apart from her principles, what distinguishes Carol from the others is the support she gives to all her sales associates. As one of Philam Plans respected agency manager, it is Carol's responsibility to keep her agency active and productive.

BAUTISTA

Carol recognizes that there are different sources of motivation for different people. She says that it may be travel incentives for some while for others it may be the knowledge that they are able to secure the life of people through the products and services they provide. Still, there are others who are driven by commission and bonuses.

"At a very young age I'm already exposed to insurance because of my father—Alfonso Borja Jr. I inherited his captured market and just continued dealing with his clients," Carol reveals.

Carol may have also inherited his father's sense of commitment.

"He diligently attends to the needs of his clients, I absorbed that from my father and I was able to put that into practice," she says.

Carols says that more than the financially secured life, she says that she's happy with Philam because it is where she got the fulfillment of her dreams. An added plus is the chance to travel.

"When I first had the chance to go to Hong Kong, my first qualification, I brought my mother along. My next chance, in Beijing, I brought both my parents. On my next stint, it's going to be my husband," says Carol.

Carol also says that the lessons she learned in the business count the most.

"You have to live a balanced life. You have time for your family, time for your associates. I should also have time for myself," relates Carol adding that she plays badminton regularly to help her relax.

And true to her principles and her belief in professional growth, Carol says that she wishes that her sales associates could have their own agency in the future if they want to. She is ready and more than willing to be of help to them.

Carol is married to a physician and they have three kids, all boys ages 13, 11 and eight. Her family is always a part of her success—the reason to do her best and be happy with it.

Joel V. Nigos

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Lakbayan is an incentive or "institutional drive" given to producers or top sales people who reached and satisfied the production requirements (1st Year Payment, Plan Count and Persistency Rate). Awarded are the following categories: Agency Managers, District Managers, Unit Managers, Sales Counselors, and Special Awards (Salary Allotment and Business Awards, Cross-Sell Awards). Lakbayan 2001 will be held in Manila at Westin Philippine Plaza on Jan. 15-18, 2002.

Day 1: 15 January

- ***Arrival***
- ***Business Conference***
- ***Kick Off Sales Rally***
- ***Luau Welcome Night***

Day 2: 16 January

- ***Business Conference: Concurrent Sessions PHC Luncheon Annual Awards Night***

Day 3: 17 January

- ***Teambuilding Activity***
- ***Talents Night (Disney Classics)***

Day 4: 18 January

- ***Thanksgiving Mass***
- ***Check Out***

Ramon A. Maghari
RM Square Associates
First Place
District Manager Top Awards
President's Honor Club

Jessielyn T. Ong
Borreo & Associates
First Place
Unit Manager Top Awards

Danilo L. Mercado
Mercado & Associates
Second Place
Unit Manager Top Awards
President's Honor Club

Francisco B. Bautista
Bautista & Associates
Second Place
Agency Manager Top Awards
Chairman's Council
President's Honor Club

Estela C. Hilario
Hilario & Associates
Cross-Sell Awards

HETO NA ANG M

SAMA-SAMA,

It takes an exceptionally dynamic team to overcome all obstacles and surpass the most ambitious goals. The kind of team that makes waves in the pre-need industry. The kind of team Philam Plans has always created. ITO ANG MGA BAGONG BIDA!

2001 PHILAM PLANS TOP AWARDEES

TOP 10 AGENCY MANAGERS

1st Place
Florinda C. Borreo
Borreo & Associates
(w/ husband Leopoldo Borreo)

2nd Place
Francisco B. Bautista
Bautista & Associates
(w/ wife Julieta Bautista)

3rd Place
Carolina B. Bautista
Bautista & Associates
(w/ husband Alejandro Bautista)

4th Place
Elizabeth T. Mercado
Mercado & Associates
(w/ husband Danilo Mercado)

5th Place
Estela C. Hilario
Hilario & Associates
(w/ husband Ferdinand Hilario)

6th Place
Allan G. Tuazon
AG Tuazon & Associates
(w/ wife Rizalina Tuazon)

7th Place
Ruthe L. Miranda
RM Square Associates
(w/ daughter Rachelle Ann Saquing)

8th Place
Victoria M. Crizaldo
Crizaldo & Associates
(w/ husband Natalio Crizaldo, Jr.)

9th Place
Jose D. Ramirez
Ramirez & Associates
(w/ wife Lydia Ramirez)

10th Place
Melania L. Tizon
Tizon & Associates
(w/ daughter Mitz De Chavez)

TOP 7 DISTRICT MANAGERS

1st Place
Ramon A. Maghari
RM Square Associates
(w/ grandson Jofred Romano)

2nd Place
Alma C. Clariño
Clariño & Associates
(w/ husband Aurelio Clariño)

3rd Place
Violeta M. Ocampo
Bautista & Associates
(w/ son Marcelino Ocampo Jr.)

4th Place
Jannet E. Dulay
Dulay & Associates
(w/ husband Romerico Dulay)

5th Place
Eric T. Bautista
Bautista & Associates
(w/ wife Ma. Velbeth Bautista)

6th Place
Gloria G. Tuazon
AG Tuazon & Associates
(w/ husband Iluminado Tuazon)

7th Place
Rizalina M. Tuazon
AG Tuazon & Associates
(w/ husband Allan Tuazon)

TOP 10 UNIT MANAGERS

1st Place
Jessielyn T. Ong
Borreo & Associates
(w/ husband Willie Ong)

2nd Place
Danilo L. Mercado
Mercado & Associates
(w/ wife Elizabeth Mercado)

3rd Place
Mary Ann Rachelle M. Saquing
RM Square Associates
(w/ husband Jerome Saquing)

4th Place
Norma D. Ampon
Bautista & Associates
(w/ husband Alfredo Ampon)

5th Place
Gloria S. Lamug
Crizaldo & Associates
(w/ husband Michael Lamug, Sr.)

6th Place
Paulina J. Delos Reyes
Crizaldo & Associates
(w/ husband Efren Delos Reyes)

7th Place
Medelyn P. Gutierrez
Santos & Associates
(w/ husband Marcelino Gutierrez)

8th Place
Maria Flor B. Rodriguez
Hilario & Associates
(w/ sister Myrna Rodriguez)

9th Place
Ma. Susan S. Galman
Bautista & Associates
(w/ husband Manny Galman)

10th Place
Marcelino Luisito F. Ocampo
Bautista & Associates
(w/ daughter Mitzi Lorraine Ocampo)

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GA BAGONG BIDA

Florinda C. Borreo
Borreo & Associates
First Place
Agency Manager Top Awards
President's Honor Club

Charles V. Ty
Mercado & Associates
Second Place
Sales Counselor Top Awards
President's Honor Club

Ms. Gliceria P. Magno
Hilario & Associates
First Place
Sales Counselor
Cross-Sell Awards

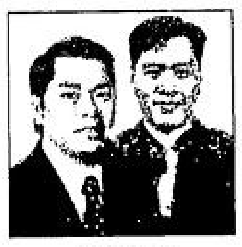
Violeta M. Ocampo
Bautista & Associates
Third Place
District Manager Top Awards

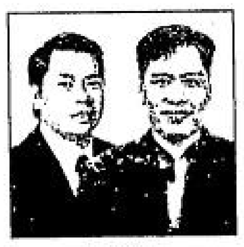
Willie S. Ong
Borreo & Associates
First Place
Sales Counselor Top Awards
Salary Allotment & Group
Business Special Awards
President's Honor Club

IDANG BIDA!

TOP 20 SALES COUNSELORS

1st Place
Willie S. Ong
Borreo & Associates
(w/ wife Jessielyn Ong)


2nd Place
Charles V. Ty
Mercado & Associates
(w/ brother Arthur Ty)


3rd Place
Arthur V. Ty
Mercado & Associates
(w/ brother Charles Ty)

4th Place
Tristan S. Dumayas
Dumayas & Associates
(w/ mother Rosalinda Dumayas)

5th Place
Alice Bangha-on
Alamazan & Associates
(w/ husband Danilo Bangha-on)

6th Place
Erwin Gabriel S. Villamil
RM Square Associates
(w/ wife Marita Blanca Miranda)

7th Place
Mark Jerome C. Saquing
RM Square Associates
(w/ wife Mary Ann Rachelle Saquing)

8th Place
Marita Blanca L. Miranda
RM Square Associates
(w/ husband Erwin Villamil)

9th Place
Arlene C. Racelis
Bautista & Associates
(w/ mother Leonora Racelis)

10th Place
Manuel M. Ortigoza, Jr.
Luayon & Associates
(w/ Unit Manager Aga Luayon)

11th Place
Reginald R. Petines
Petines & Associates
(w/ mother Ching Petines)

12th Place
Mercedes C. Garcia
Bautista & Associates
(w/ husband Fernando Garcia)

13th Place
Michael F. Lamug, Sr.
Crizaldo & Associates
(w/ wife Gloria Lamug)

14th Place
Arsenia A. Tancinco
Crizaldo & Associates
(w/ husband Romeo Tancinco)

15th Place
Everlito S. Santos
Bautista & Associates
(w/ sister Susan Galman)

16th Place
Michael Angelo B. Florendo
Ibañez & Associates
(w/ mother Chette Bañez)

17th Place
Deborah D. Sarinas
Moguels & Associates
(w/ husband Tim Sarinas)

18th Place
Gloria M. Perello
Villarosa & Associates
(w/ husband Ferdinand Perello)

19th Place
Angelita V. Valte
De La Fuente & Associates
(w/ daughter Marivic Vergel de Dios)

20th Place
Eclirita F. Uy
Bautista & Associates
(w/ husband Conrad Tim Uy)

CROSS-SELL AWARDS

Estela C. Hilario
Agency Manager
Hilario & Associates
(w/ husband Ferdinand Hilario)

Gliceria P. Magno
Sales Counselor
Hilario & Associates
(w/ husband Carlos Magno)

SA/GB SPECIAL AWARD

Willie S. Ong
Sales Counselor
Borreo & Associates
(w/ wife Jessielyn Ong)

2001 PRESIDENT'S HONOR CLUB MEMBERS

List of Attendees
January 16, 2002 • Ilustrado Restaurant, Intramuros, Manila

This year, the President's Honor Club consists of an exceptionally heroic team. Men and women who remain courageous and daring during the most difficult missions. People who display the highest standards of excellence and professionalism. And embody the principles, the values and the spirit Philam Plans have always stood for. These are the people we look up to. These are the people we honor.

1. Francisco B. Bautista
2. Florinda C. Borreo
3. Carolina B. Bautista
4. Elizabeth T. Mercado
5. Estela C. Hilario
6. Victoria M. Crizaldo
7. Jose D. Ramirez
8. Remando E. Arcibal
9. Ma. Ruthe L. Miranda
10. Melania L. Tizon
11. Danilo L. Mercado
12. Mary Ann Rachelle M. Saquing
13. Charles V. Ty
14. Erwin Gabriel S. Villamil
15. Mark Jerome C. Saquing
16. Marita Blanca L. Miranda
17. Deborah D. Sarinas
18. Gloria M. Perello
19. Ramon A. Maghari
20. Jannet E. Dulay
21. Eric T. Bautista

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GLORIETTA 1
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1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
2	ZOOLANDER	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	AMERICAN ADOBO	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	BURLESK KING	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4

1	ZOOLANDER	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	SPY GAMES	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	BAGONG BUWAN (Art Film)	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	AMERICAN ADOBO	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	THE KING IS DANCING	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	WEEKEND W/ POPS JAN. 18, 19, 25 & 26 - 9:00 PM Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	AMERICAN ADOBO	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SPY GAMES	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	ZOOLANDER	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	GLASS HOUSE
2 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 GOLD (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ZOOLANDER
6 GOLD (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
8	AMERICAN ADOBO
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	BURLESK KING

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	BURLESK KING
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BURLESK KING
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BURLESK KING
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	BUKO PANDAN

METROPOLIS star
543.3927 loc. 150

1	WALANG IWANAN
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BUKO PANDAN
5	BURLESK KING
6	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TATARIN
2	SPY GAMES

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	BURLESK KING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	RESERVE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
A	BUKO PANDAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BURLESK KING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	WALANG IWANAN
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BUKO PANDAN
5	BURLESK KING
6	AMERICAN ADOBO
7 (DTS)	ZOOLANDER
8 (SDDS)	SPY GAMES
9 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BUKO PANDAN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BURLESK KING
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BUKO PANDAN
4 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
5	HUBOG
6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	BAGONG BUWAN
9	WALANG IWANAN

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BUKO PANDAN
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
6	BURLESK KING
7 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	HUBOG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BURLESK KING
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BUKO PANDAN
5 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BURLESK KING

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7886

1	BURLESK KING

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	BUKO PANDAN
Lords	BUKO PANDAN
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BURLESK KING
3	BUKO PANDAN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	BURLESK KING

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BUKO PANDAN
4	BURLESK KING
5	LORD OF THE RINGS

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BURLESK KING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BUKO PANDAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BURLESK KING

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BURLESK KING
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BURLESK KING
2 (DTS)	AMERICAN ADOBO
3 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	ZOOLANDER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2 (DOLBY)	ZOOLANDER
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BURLESK KING

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	HUBOG
2	MUSKETEERS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
(Tarlac)

1	THE SCORE
2	SPY GAMES
3 (DOLBY)	BURLESK KING
4 (DTS)	WALANG IWANAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BURLESK KING
4 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ZOOLANDER
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BURLESK KING
5	GIRL FEVER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BURLESK KING
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	ZOOLANDER
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	SPY GAMES
2	WALANG IWANAN
3	DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BURLESK KING
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SAPAGKAT KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
2	WALANG IWANAN
3	BURLESK KING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

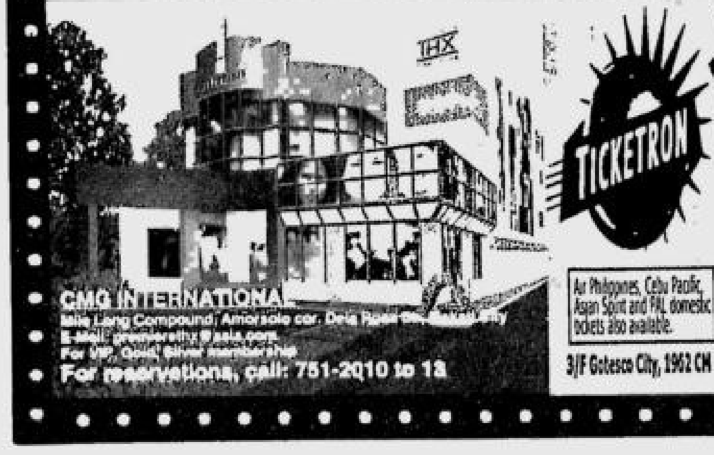
1	SAPAGKAT KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
2	SPY GAMES
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	WALANG IWANAN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 (DTS EX)	BURLESK KING

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



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632-9115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 279

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	SPY GAMES
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	ZOOLANDER
7	GLASS HOUSE
8	ON THE LINE
9	BUKO PANDAN
10	BURLESK KING

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BURLESK KING
4	SPY GAMES
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
7	ZOOLANDER

METRO EAST
632-9115-16 / 633-7641

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	SPY GAMES
6	BUKO PANDAN
7	ZOOLANDER
8	BURLESK KING

NOVALICHES
936-3229 TO 31

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	ZOOLANDER
5	SPY GAMES
6	BURLESK KING
7	BUKO PANDAN
8	AMERICAN ADOBO

IMUS
(046) 471-6186

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	ZOOLANDER
3	AMERICAN ADOBO
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	BURLESK KING
6	BUKO PANDAN

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453 / 0459

1	SPY GAMES
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	AMERICAN ADOBO
4	DREAM GIRL
5	SUSMARYOSEP (4 FATHERS)
6	WOLF GIRL

ILOILO
(033) 336- 8077 / 8078

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	WOLF GIRL
3	SAPAGKAT KAMI'Y TAO
4	ON THE LINE
5	2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
6	MUSKETEERS

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BURLESK KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	AMERICAN ADOBO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ZOOLANDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BAGONG BUWAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	SPY GAME
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	BUKO PANDAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG / BEDROOM SECRET
ODEON	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
ODEON-2	BURLESK KING
ROBEN	BUKO PANDAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	KNIGHT'S TAIL / THE BODY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BUKO PANDAN
REMAR	BUKO PANDAN
REMAR-2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BURLESK KING
B	BUKO PANDAN
C	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-2	BUKO PANDAN
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BURLESK KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
CINEMA-12	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-14	SPY GAME
CINEMA-15	AMERICAN ADOBO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-2	ZOOLANDER
CINEMA-3	SPY GAME
CINEMA-4	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-5	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-6	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

'Sine'skwela' wins KBP award

"SINE'SKWELA" was recently awarded best children's program in the 5th annual Alay sa Kabataan Awards of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas.

The award, presented by the KBP and Unicef, is considered a great honor to the Educational Television (ETV) production team of ABS-CBN Foundation Inc., which continually strives to create shows that educate and appeal to Filipino students.

The top-rated and multi-awarded "Sine'skwela" is the country's only science show for elementary school children.

The program airs Mondays to Fridays, 9 to 9:30 a.m.

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	HUBOG
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BURLESK KING
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6	AMERICAN ADOBO
7	BUKO PANDAN
8	ZOOLANDER

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BUKO PANDAN
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	ZOOLANDER
5	LORD OF THE RINGS
6	HUBOG
7	SPY GAMES
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	BURLESK KING
10	BAGONG BUWAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	HUBOG
2	ON THE LINE
3	YAMASHITA
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	BURLESK KING
7	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	SPY GAMES
9	ZOOLANDER
10	BAGONG BUWAN
11	WALANG IWANAN
12	BUKO PANDAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	SPY GAMES
3	ZOOLANDER
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	ON THE LINE
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	BUKO PANDAN
8	GLASS HOUSE
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	BAGONG BUWAN
11	HUBOG
12	BURLESK KING

SM MEGAMALL
6331001 • 6329401

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	SPY GAMES
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	GLASS HOUSE
6	ZOOLANDER
7	BUKO PANDAN
8	HUBOG
9	BURLESK KING
10	AMERICAN ADOBO
11	BAGONG BUWAN
12	ON THE LINE

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	BURLESK KING
3	AMERICAN ADOBO
4	BUKO PANDAN

dts DIGITAL SOUND DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	BUKO PANDAN
4	BURLESK KING
5	SPY GAMES
6	ZOOLANDER
7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	YAMASHITA
10	BAGONG BUWAN
11	HUBOG
12	ON THE LINE

SM SOUTHMALL
806-6888 / 806-6782

1	ZOOLANDER
2	SPY GAMES
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BURLESK KING
5	LORD OF THE RINGS
6	BAGONG BUWAN
7	AMERICAN ADOBO
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	HUBOG
10	BUKO PANDAN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	BUKO PANDAN
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	BURLESK KING

SM CEBU
2313876

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	SPY GAMES
3	GLASS HOUSE
4	GIRL FEVER
5	WALANG IWANAN
6	BRO
7	AMERICAN ADOBO

SM ILOILO
3200422

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	CLOSED
3	ON THE LINE
4	MUSKETEERS
5	2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
6	SAPAGKAT KAMIY TAO
7	CLOSED
8	WOLF GIRL

SM PAMPANGA
7128015

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	SPY GAMES
4	DI KITA MA-REACH
5	BURLESK KING
6	AMERICAN ADOBO

SM SUCAT
8204075

1	BURLESK KING
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	AMERICAN ADOBO

SM DAVAO

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	GIRL FEVER
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	BRO
6	SPY GAMES

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Boob-tube booboos

(From page A26)

Female starlet: No, he's only like my brother.

Host: But our spy says he was seen kissing you at a party.

Female starlet: So what? He was only kissing me on the chieks.

(Ay, chicks!)

Asia Pacific Television Service

THE AUSTRALIAN Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Asia Pacific Television Service is now on the air, with test broadcasts starting last Dec.31. Funded by the Australian government, the new television service is airing in key cities in the region and will be officially launched on Feb. 13.

It offers extensive original news and current affairs programming, an innovative cross-media strategy, and a multi-channeling capacity to broadcast in different time zones in the region.

The program schedule contains daily Asia Pacific news bulletins; regular updates on the Australian economy, business environment and stock market; a current affairs program on the region; documentaries and features on Australian politics, business, arts, culture, science, medicine, sports, etc.

The new service is editorially independent and free from government direction. Initially, the ABC Asia Pacific Television Service is being aired on SkyCable and Home Cable channels.

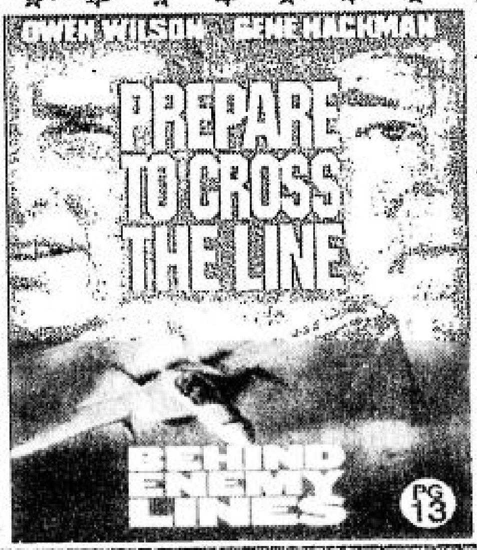
On Star Movies

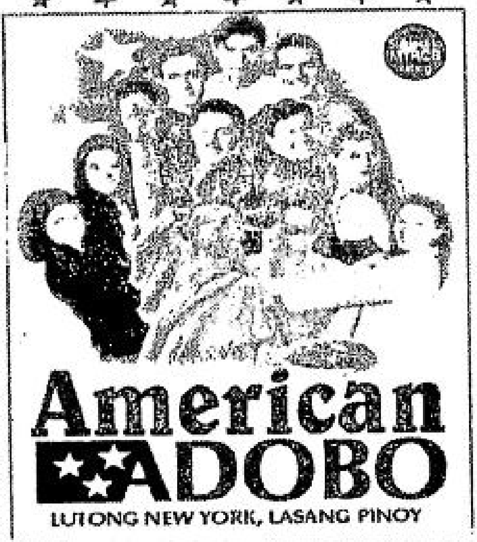
WEDNESDAY, Jan. 16 at 9 p.m., "Freejack" stars **Emilio Estevez** as a racecar driver who meets an accident and is projected into the year 2009. He is pursued by 21st century bounty hunters led by a character played by rock star **Mick Jagger**.

Saturday, Jan. 19 at 8 a.m., "D2: The Mighty Ducks" is the sequel to the popular "The Mighty Ducks." In "D2," Gordon Bombay is invited to coach Team USA at the Jr. Goodwill Games.

At 3 p.m., "Rambo III." Rambo (**Sylvester Stallone**) "invades" Soviet-occupied Afghanistan, singlehandedly fighting the Soviet Army to save his friend and mentor, Col. Trautman.

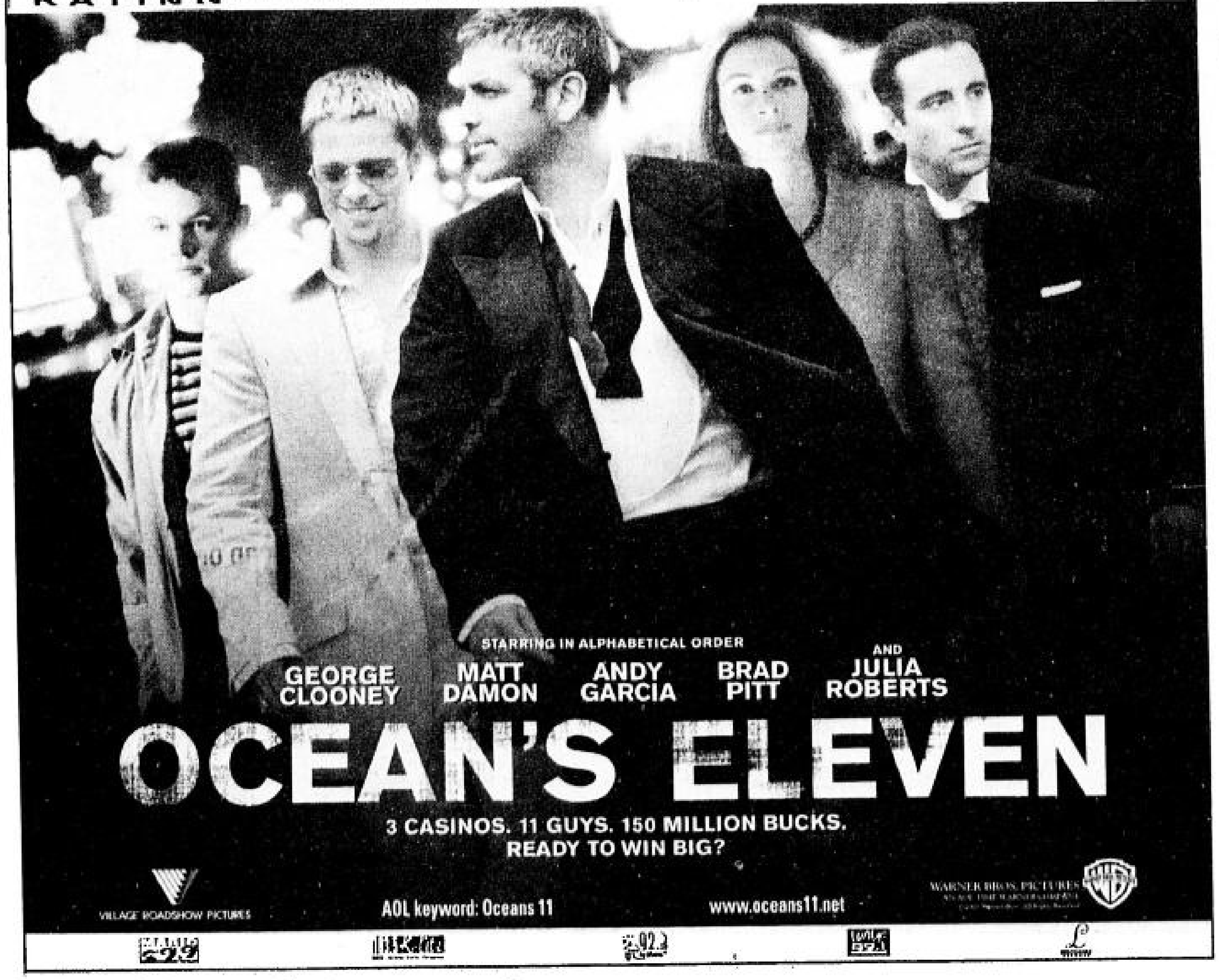
AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GREENBELT
NOW SHOWING
Art Film
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted | Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
THE KING IS DANCING
(Le Roi Danse)
A film by Gérard Corbiau
JAN 15 TO 19, 2002
At the age of 14, Louis XIV knows that he'll rule France one day, but he also knows that everything will be done to prevent this from happening. It gives him a complex. Through dance, at which the young king excels, and through the music he creates for him, Lully, the royal composer, reveals the boy's true nature to himself and to society at large.
Cast: Claire Keim, Benoît Magimel, Boris Terral, Tcheky Karyo, Cécile Bois, Colette Emmanuelle, Johan Leysen, Stéphane Idwig
NEXT ATTRACTION
TEARS OF THE BLACK TIGER (Restricted 18)
JAN. 20 to 22, 2002

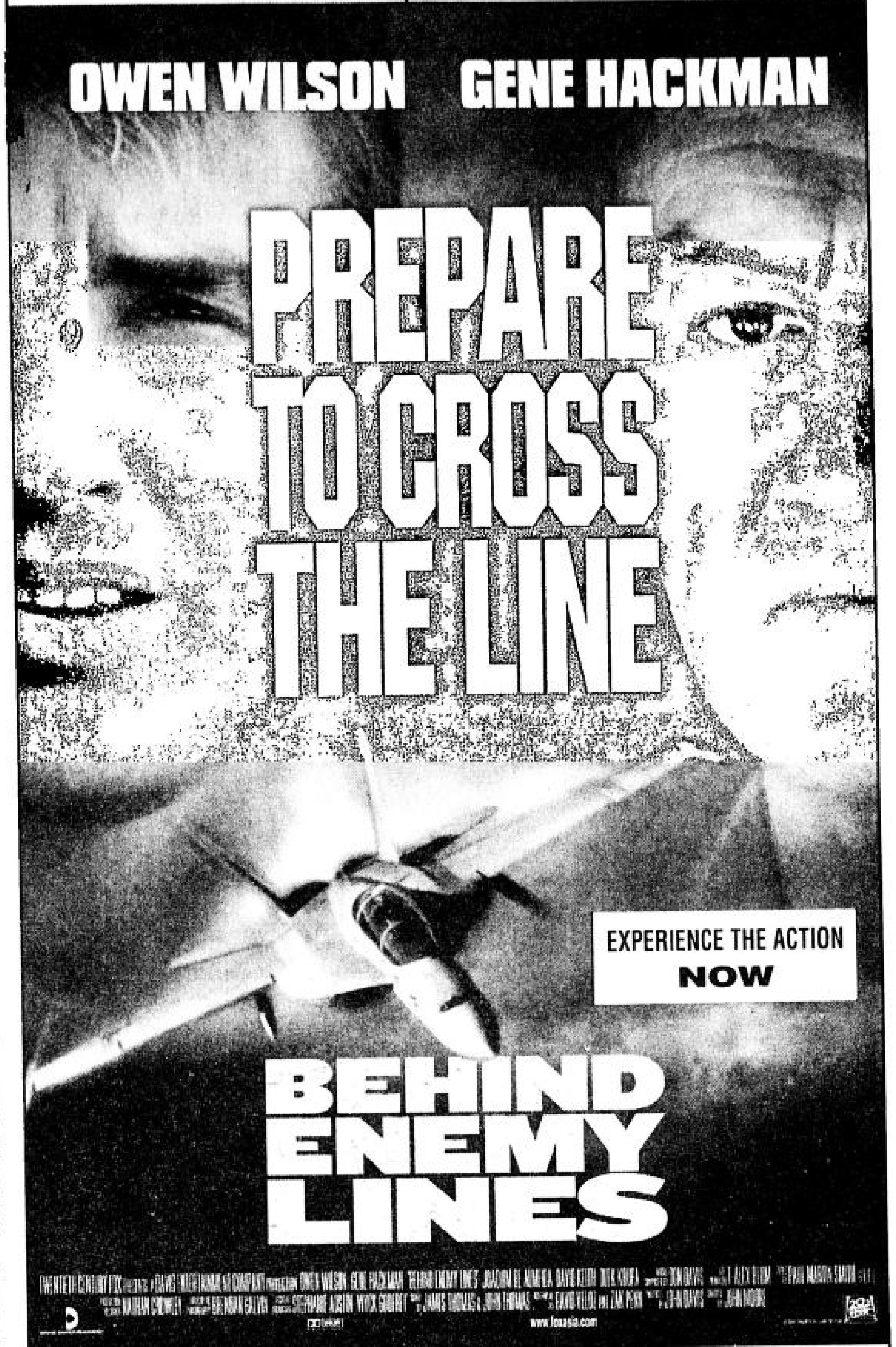
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD Now Showing


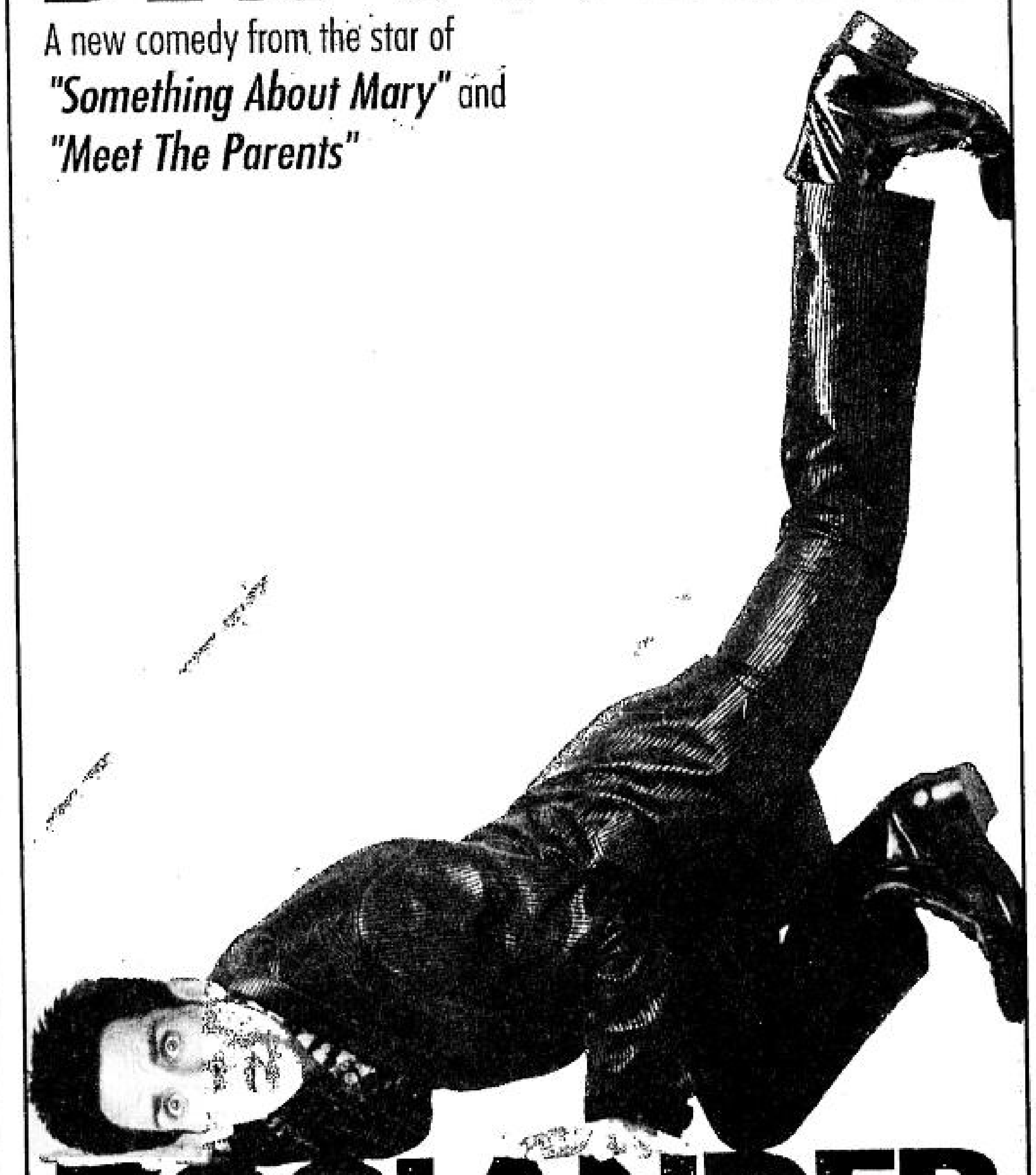

American ADOBO
LUTONG NEW YORK, LASANG PINOY
@ Galleria, Ermita, Metro East, Novaliches, Imus & Iloilo

OPENS TODAY !
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 Strictly For Adults Only
pyar mirasol
tonton gutierrez paolo rivero and maricar de mesa

lucita soriano nicole noble froilan sales rona reyes joseph baltazar
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHNNY ARAOJO PRODUCTION DESIGNER NONO NEBRES SOUND ENGINEER NESTOR MUTIA
FILM EDITOR RANDY BRIEN SOUND EFFECTS SERAFIN DINEROS MUSICAL DIRECTOR BLITZ PADUA LINE PRODUCER LEA CALMERIN
PRODUCTION CONSULTANT TOTOY CAPALAD PRODUCTION MANAGER ED FRANCISCO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SHIRLEY FABELLA
PRODUCER GEE GALANG SUPERVISING PRODUCER JEFF GALANG EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MS. JOJO GALANG
Story, Screenplay and Direction by URO Q. dela CRUZ
A WORLD ARTS CINEMA PRESENTATION

PLACE YOUR BETS ON JAN. 23!
MTRCB RATING PG – 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

STARRING IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER
GEORGE CLOONEY MATT DAMON ANDY GARCIA BRAD PITT AND JULIA ROBERTS
OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 CASINOS. 11 GUYS. 150 MILLION BUCKS. READY TO WIN BIG?
AOL keyword: Oceans 11
www.oceans11.net

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

OWEN WILSON GENE HACKMAN
PREPARE TO CROSS THE LINE
EXPERIENCE THE ACTION NOW
BEHIND ENEMY LINES
www.foxasia.com
GRAND OPENING TODAY !

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
BEN STILLER
A new comedy from the star of
"Something About Mary" and
"Meet The Parents"

ZOOLANDER
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SMART
Entertainment Television Philippines
Information Gateway Inc.
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

BEHIND ENEMY LINES - P13 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25	ZOOLANDER - P13 11:10, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45	SPY GAME - P 13 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 11:50, 3:20, 6:50, 10:20	AMERICAN ADOBO - R18 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40	BEHIND ENEMY LINES - P13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings. Free Seating.

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: I hear your former best friend is trying to become friends with you again?

Guest: No more, no? What she did was too much?

Host: If she's watching now, what do you want to say to her?

Guest: I want to say, *sinungaling ka*! Be gone now and never come back, you bits!

(*Ay*, you bits!)

***

Host: How can we get tourists to visit our country again after last year's slump?

Guest: We must threaten them with hospitality!

(Huh?!)

***

Host: Has the country's peace and order situation improved?

Guest: I don't think so.

Host: What makes you say that?

Guest: For one thing, there are too many abuses of violations of human rights!

(Abuses *na*, violations *pa*?—Things must really be bad!)

***

Host: *Ano na'ng mangyayari sa* suspect *ngayon*?

Cohost: *Ano pa? Di nahaharap siya sa kaso ng* illegal possession of illegal drugs!

(*Isa ka pa*!)

***

Host: *Ano'ng nakikita mo diyan sa* Quiapo *ngayon*?

Field reporter: *Ang daming tao dito! Ang* Nazareno *ay sinasalubong ng pagwagaywagay ng mga tuwalya*!

(*Pagwagaywagay—ano 'yon*?)

***

Host: What can you say to answer the detainee's complaints?

Guest: There's no truth to them all. There was no violation of his rights. He was very well taken of!

(*Ano daw*?)

***

Host: What is your evaluation of security arragements for the detainees?

Guest: I'm afraid, there has been so many laxities lately.

(Well, at least he didn't say laxatives . . .)

***

Host: Has the bold craze passed on the local film scene?

Guest: I don't think so. Just last week, I saw a movie where the actress wears a thin duster, braless and probably no panty!

(That's the bold movie in your mind!)

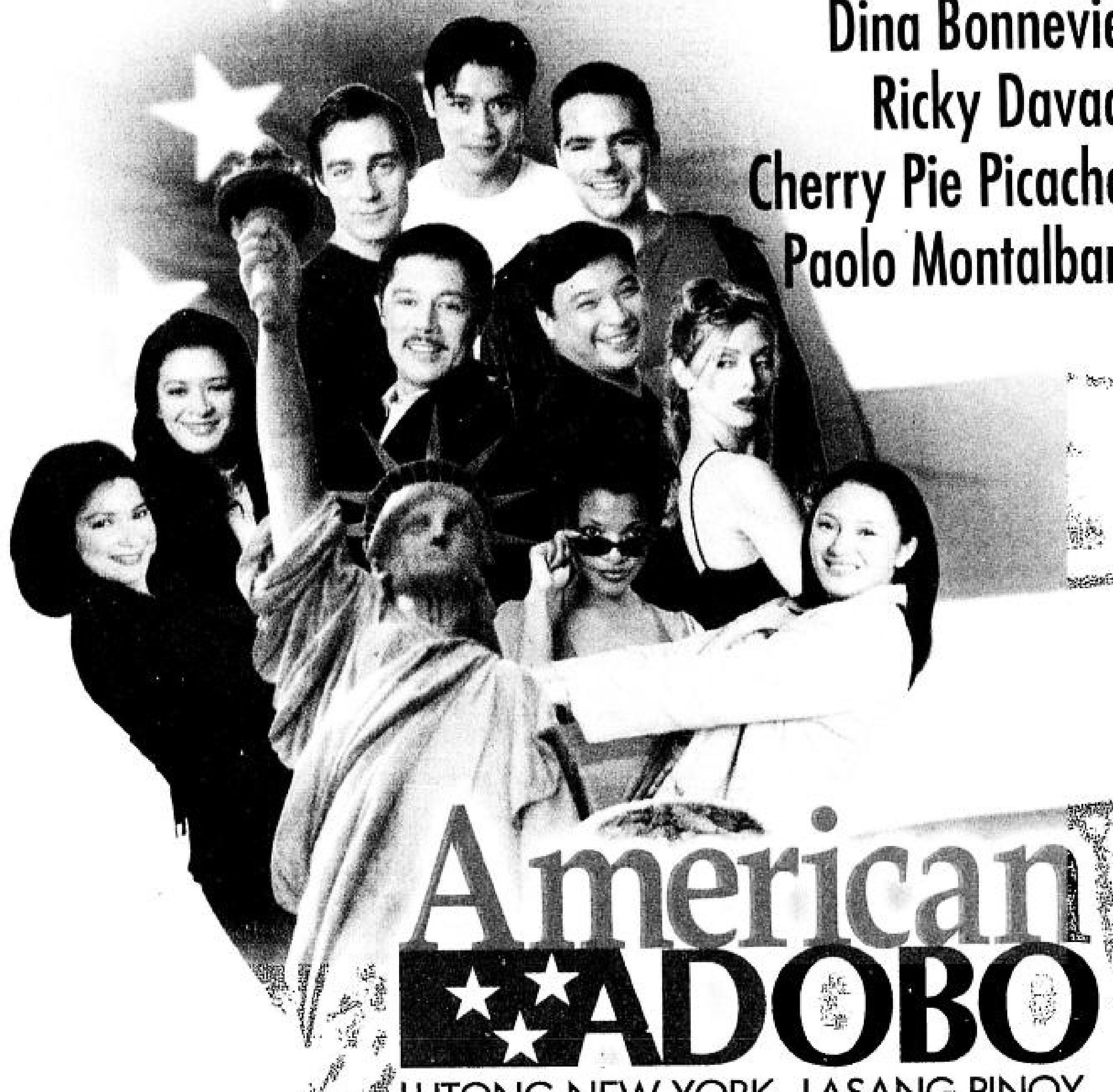
***

Host: Is (name of male starlet) your boyfriend now?

BOOB/ A25

MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted

Christopher De Leon
Dina Bonnevie
Ricky Davao
Cherry Pie Picache
Paolo Montalban

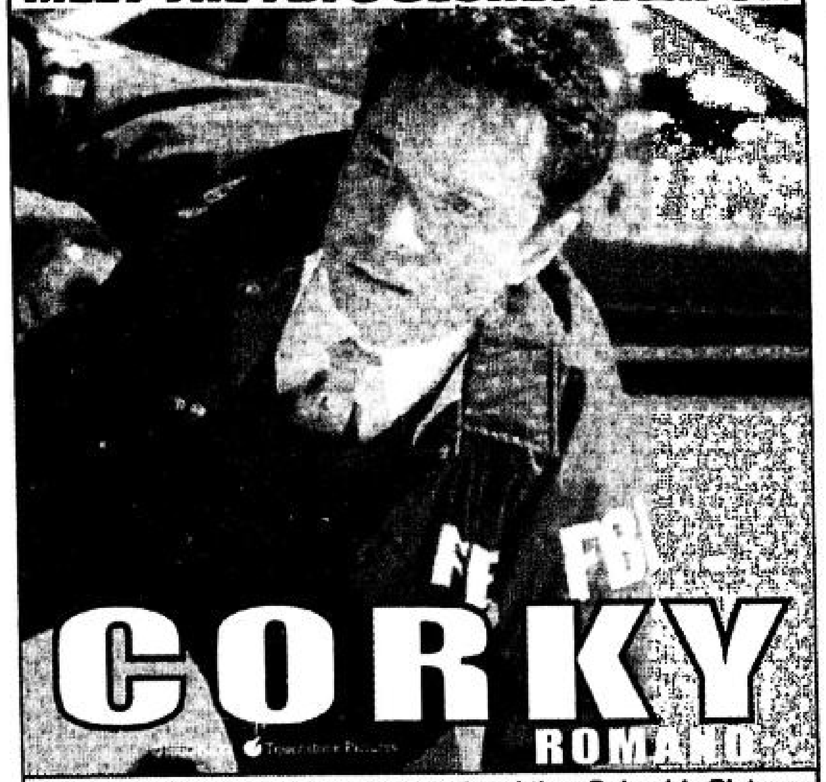


American ADOBO
LUTONG NEW YORK. LASANG PINOY.

ABS-CBN Entertainment and Unitel Pictures in association with Magic Adobo Productions LLC present AMERICAN ADOBO A film by LAURICE GUILLEN
Starring CHRISTOPHER DE LEON • DINA BONNEVIE • RICKY DAVAO • CHERRY PIE PICACHE • PAOLO MONTALBAN • RANDY BECKER • KEESHA SHARP
With SANDY ANDOLONG • SUSAN VALDEZ-LE GOFF and GLORIA ROMERO Supervising Producers TESS V. FUENTES • BONBON JIMENEZ
Musical Director NONONG BUENCAMINO Edited by EFREN JARLEGO Production Design FIEL CORRALES ZABAT Director of Photography LEE MEILY
Produced by VINCENT R. NEBRIDA • STEVE MAX GRENYO Executive Producers CHARO SANTOS-CONCIO • KEVIN J. FOXE
Produced by TONY I. GLORIA Written by VINCENT R. NEBRIDA
Directed by LAURICE GUILLEN
www.abs-cbn.com/americanadobo • www.americanadobo.com

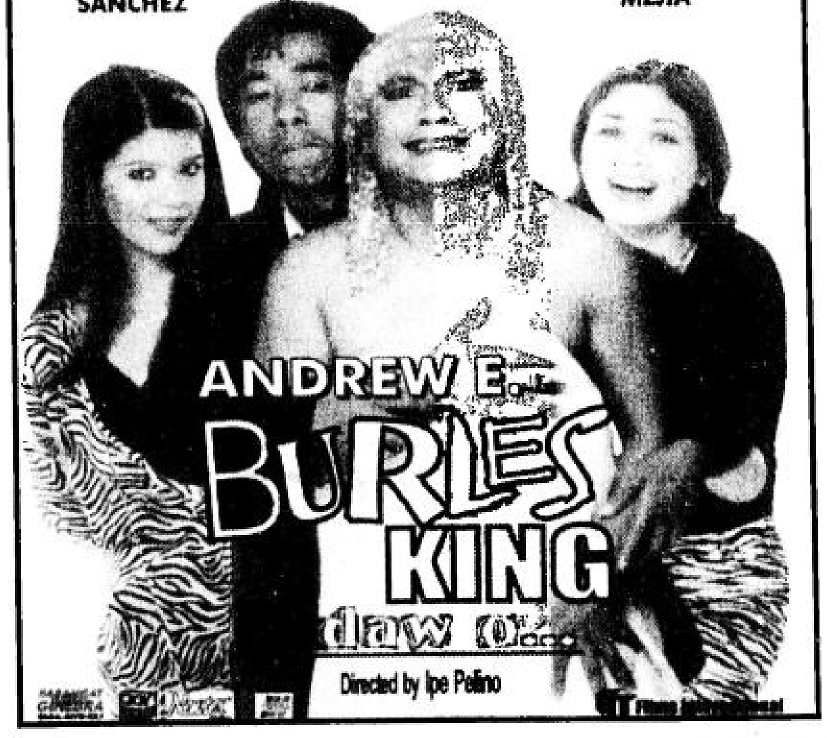
OPENS TODAY

OPENS JANUARY 23 !
MTRCB RATING ▶PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
MEET THE FBI'S SECRET WEAPON



CORKY ROMANO
Touchstone Pictures
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Move over... The Hunks
Ang Bagong Kilig
to the Bones
OPENS TODAY !
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
GISELLE SANCHEZ
GENEVA CRUZ
JANETTE MCBRIDE
LONG MEJIA



ANDREW E. BURLES KING daw o...
Directed by Ipe Pelino

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Presenting the most requested logos, ring tones and picture messages from the week of January 9 to 14. Take a bite today!
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Top ten logos:

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2 LOGO BLONDIE1
3 LOGO DRINK2
4 LOGO EVOLUTN1
5 LOGO FIGURE
6 LOGO GOLDFISH2
7 LOGO HEDGEHOG
8 LOGO PRTYANML
9 LOGO SWEEETHEART
10 LOGO WASTE1

New logos:
LOGO CAP1
LOGO COUCHPOTATO
LOGO HIGHVOLTAGE
LOGO PENCIL1
LOGO SHERRIF1
LOGO STORK1
LOGO SUNDOWN
LOGO WASHING1
LOGO WATCHOUT1
LOGO RAVE1

New picture messages:
PIC BACH
PIC BEETHOVEN
PIC CHOPIN
PIC DOLLAR1
PIC DOLLAR2
PIC KISSME1
PIC MOZART
PIC PIGLET1
PIC ROCKET1
PIC STALLIONS1

New ring tones:
C is for Cookie *from TV Show "Sesame Street"* **TONE C4COOKIE**
Elmo's Song *from TV Show "Sesame Street"* **TONE ELMOSONG**
I Don't Want To Live On The Moon *from TV Show "Sesame Street"* **TONE LIVONMOON**
The People In Your Neighborhood *from TV Show "Sesame Street"* **TONE PIPOL**
Sing *from TV Show "Sesame Street"* **TONE SING**
Sunny Day *from TV Show "Sesame Street"* **TONE SUNNYDAY**

Top ten ring tones:
1 Let It Be *Beatles* **TONE LETITBE**
2 Michelle *Beatles* **TONE MICHELLE**
3 Electric Typewriter *zed* **TONE TYPEWRITER**
4 Waiting For Tonight *Jennifer Lopez* **TONE WAITING4**
5 Lambada **TONE LAMBADA**
6 Clint Eastwood *Gorillas* **TONE CLINTEAST**
7 Superman *Five for Fighting* **TONE SUPERMANS**
8 Butterfly *Crazy Town* **TONE BUTTERFLY**
9 Lady Marmalade *Christina Aguilera* **TONE MARMALADE**
10 Smooth *Santana* **TONE SMOOTHSAN**

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Banks hit 'indiscriminate' issuance of TROs

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE INFLUENTIAL Bankers Association of the Philippines has asked the Supreme Court to stop the lower courts from issuing restraining orders "indiscriminately" against bank foreclosures.

The BAP groups the country's 44 operating commercial banks.

BAP officials said the regional trial courts and the Court of Appeals have been issuing several temporary restraining orders (TROs) in favor of defaulting borrowers.

Such obstruction was one of the major factors that restrained banks from solving their huge NPL problems despite the interest of asset management companies to help local lenders.

This habit of the lower courts, according to bank officials, had prevented local banks from liquefying assets that were used by borrowers as collateral for loans that have turned sour.

As of October last year, the bad loans of the 44 commercial banks amounted to P281 billion, equivalent to 18.81 percent of their total loan portfolio.

The BAP has proposed to the Supreme Court to put in place safeguards against the indiscriminate issue of restraining orders.

Among the proposed safeguards was that no restraining order must be issued unless the borrower could produce a receipt on the payment of at least 10 percent of the outstanding balance.

Several defaulting borrowers, according to a bank official, claimed they have paid part of their loans but could not produce any receipt. The BAP suspected that this was a scheme to delay the collection process and, eventually, the foreclosure.

The BAP also suggested to the high court that only the Court of Appeals must be allowed to act on cases of foreclosure on obligations exceeding P10 million.

A bank official pointed out that for locally operating lenders to have sufficient funds for relending to new borrowers, they have to foreclose assets covering the loans that have not been paid so these could be converted into cash.

While the enactment of a legislation to provide incentives to companies that would help banks dispose of their bad assets would help, the asset management companies could not do much if the assets were the subject of protracted litigation.

Bank officials pointed out that the last thing they wanted was to foreclose an asset because it was not only costly but takes a long time to resolve. They said they needed to pay capital gains tax, documentary

BANKS/ B4

Gov't to allow new gas stations along expressways

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE ENERGY department and Philippine National Construction Co. yesterday jointly announced that new oil firms would now be allowed to set up service stations in the North and South tollways.

In a statement, the energy department said PNCC was expected to complete this week the terms of reference of the public bidding for the right to build the facilities.

These will include guidelines on the technical and financial capabilities of the firms that want to operate on the expressways.

The bidding proper is set for February.

New oil firms have filed applications to construct gasoline stations in the expressways at the onset of the industry's deregulation in 1998.

But the applications did not prosper due to an existing memorandum of agreement between PNCC and the three oil majors giving the latter exclusive rights on the use of the tollways.

Before the industry was deregulated, the only oil firms existing were Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines.

In 2000, a proposed guideline was floated allowing new industry players in the expressways, but they had to pay higher fees than those applied to the Big Three.

In yesterday's statement, PNCC chair Luis Sison said the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel issued a legal opinion declaring that the MOA with the Big Three was invalid in view of the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation law.

"PNCC will apply uniform tariff rates for both the major and the new firms who would operate (within the tollways)," Sison said.

This move aims to fully achieve fair competition and eventually provide efficient service to end-consumers, he added.

For his part, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said allowing new players in the tollways gave a strong push toward a level playing field in the industry.

"We are aware that they had been batting for the right to operate their facilities in the area for many years now," Perez said.

Rona Quejada, corporate communications manager of TotalFinaElf Philippines, said they appreciated the efforts of the energy department and PNCC to resolve the issue.

"Now, we will start identifying the possible sites (for stations) and revive our plans to build stations along the expressways," Quejada said.

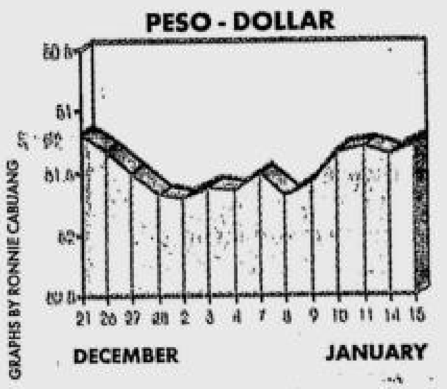
She said the cost of building a fully furnished station is about P100 million.

Seaoil Petroleum Corp. president Glenn Yu, meanwhile, said he had not seen the resolution yet.

"But I am happy with the decision," Yu said. "We will revisit our previous plans."

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

P51.255 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 15, 2002

¥131.18 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 15, 2002

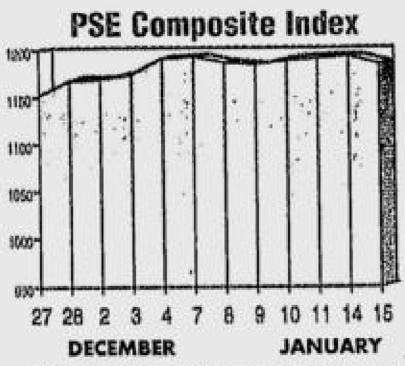
GOLD:$284.40/284.90
per ounce Hong Kong,
Jan. 15, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares down 0.7%

SHARE prices closed 0.7 percent lower yesterday on lack of fresh leads with investors cautious ahead of the first anniversary of President Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 7.89 points at 1,184.84.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Turnover was higher at 328.45 million shares worth P351.78 million from Monday's 212 million shares valued at P271 million.

"Given the continued wrangling in the political arena plus some threats

SHARES/ B4

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BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

RFM unit, Malaysian firm okay ₱700-M venture in RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE Townships Inc., the property arm of food and beverage group RFM Corp., has signed a joint venture deal with a unit of the Hai San group of Malaysia to put up a fully integrated cold storage business in the country worth initially P700 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, RFM spokesperson Ramon Lopez said the 50-50 joint venture aimed to provide cold chain services that would benefit Philippine growers and food processors.

The Hai San group's Iglo Sdn Bhd, whose operations in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand would be linked to the Philippine joint venture, signed the definitive agreement with Philippine Townships. Iglo is the exclusive cold chain service provider of Unilever Walls in these Asean countries.

A memorandum of understanding between Philtown and Iglo had been made last year during the state visit of President Macapagal in Malaysia.

"As part of the strategic review of its operations and in light of the implementation of the Asean Free Trade Agreement (Afta), whereby tariffs and trade barriers between Asean nations will be significantly reduced if not eliminated by 2002, RFM Corp. has examined potentials that will support its core business of branded beverage and food products and take advantage of Afta benefits," the disclosure said.

The disclosure said the new facility, to be located in Philtown's property in Baranggay Manggahan, Pasig, would enable food growers and processors to maintain the quality of their product from pick-up point up to the delivery to the consumers nationwide or in other Asean countries as a consequence of Afta.

"It will also provide the logistical services starting from global pick-up of the raw materials and be involved in the value added contract processing of the finished product," it said.

The P700-million initial cost estimate is for the first and second phases of the cold storage facility. Site preparation and development will start this month and turnover is scheduled by September.

"The design of the cold storage facility and the construction of the whole building will be the first of its kind in the region. It will be the largest cold storage facility in the Philippines with the capacity of 10,000 pallets," the disclosure said.

The facility will have a computerized steering system, multiple temperature control for the facilities and information technology-based, customized in-house computer system that aims to create a real-time database and make it easy to access information for both the proponents and the producers.

PNB eyes transfer of foreclosed assets to AMC

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE National Bank is prioritizing the sale of its P20 billion worth of foreclosed assets as it prepares to select an asset management company to team up with.

PNB president Feliciano Miranda Jr. said the bank would prioritize the sale of its real and other properties owned and acquired or Ropoa over the collection of about P51 billion in soured loans that comprise more than half of the bank's total loan portfolio.

"The initial contribution to a joint venture with an asset management group would be our P20 billion Ropoa. But before we enter into any arrangement, we would wait for the law on AMCs to be passed," said the outgoing PNB president.

Miranda said the bank had asked seven financial groups to submit offers to help take out PNB's bad loans and soured assets. Miranda, who had agreed to run PNB on a temporary basis, would give way to a new president to be appointed by the government soon.

The government and Lucio Tan are expected to sign within the month a memorandum of agreement on the debt-to-equity conversion of the P25 billion in loans extended to PNB by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the state-owned Philippine Deposit insurance Corp.

The conversion at P40 per share of P7.8 billion of the PNB loans would increase the government's equity in PNB to 44.98 percent from 16 percent and dilute the stake of Tan to the same level from 68 percent.

About P10 billion of the loans would be used to offset the government's advances from PNB while the remaining P6.1 billion would be restructured by the central bank over a 10-year period. PNB had settled P1.1 billion of the total loans, of which P15 billion came from the BSP and P10 billion from PDIC.

PDIC would issue convertible preferred shares covering the P7.8 billion but being a regulator, would have no voting rights in the bank.

PDIC president Norberto Nazareno said the group of Tan would assign part of its voting rights to the national government for the two groups to have an equal say in the decision-making for PNB.

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"The Privatization of Poverty Reduction"

Khun Mechai Viravaidya
Senator, Thailand
Founder, Population and Community Development Association (PDA)

Close to 900 million of the world's poor live in Asia and the Pacific region. Many more have fallen below the poverty line as a result of the Asian Financial Crisis and the subsequent world recession. Is the problem of poverty the sole responsibility of Government? Or does Business have a role in reducing poverty?

The **Asian Institute of Management**, thru the ***Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. – AIM Center for Corporate Responsibility*** and in cooperation with the **Asian Development Bank**, invite you to a special lunch briefing on the "Privatization of Poverty Reduction" by **Senator Mechai Viravaidya**, better known as "Mr. Condom" of Thailand, on 22 January 2002 (12:00 – 2:00 p.m.)

In 1974, **Senator Mechai** founded the Population and Community Development Association (PDA), one of Thailand's largest private non-profit development organizations, which is involved in community-based family planning, community and rural development programs and HIV/AIDS prevention activities throughout Thailand. Over that period, the annual population growth rate in Thailand declined from 3.2% in 1974 to 1.2% in 1996, and the average number of children per family fell from 7 to 2.

In 1990, he started **T-BIRD (Thai Business Initiative in Rural Development)** to encourage companies to adopt villages, provide the business know-how and help villagers set up village-based industries to help stem in-migration into the Metropolitan Bangkok area. To date, over 80 Thai villages have been adopted with a significant reduction in their poverty levels.

For his work, Senator Mechai has received the 1997 United Nations Population Award, the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service in 1994, the Paul Hoffman and the United Nations Gold Peace Medal in 1981.

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Disclosures

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. announced that the proposed merger of **Sanwa Bank Ltd.**, owner of 25.06 percent of RCBC, with the **Tokai Bank Ltd.** was approved by the Japanese Financial Services Agency last Nov. 16. The merged institution shall be called **UFJ Bank Ltd.**

* * *

ELECTED officers of **Prime Orion Philippines Inc.** were Felipe Yap, chair; David Go, vice chair; Yuen Po Seng, president; Ronald Sugapong, treasurer; Daisy Parker, corporate secretary and Ma. Rhodora dela Cuesta, assistant corporate secretary.

* * *

EVER-GOTESCO Resources Holdings Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 40-percent drop in its share price from P0.025 to P0.015 per share. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, January 15, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58	58	58	426,100
China Banking Corp.	560	560	560	560	440
Citystate Savings Bank	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.5	16,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24.5	24.5	24	24	369,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	197	197	193	196	19,600
Philippine National Bank	64	64	64	64	7,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.75	13.5	11.75	12.5	16,000
Security Bank Corp.	17	17	17	17	3,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	5,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.55	0.58	0.55	0.58	50,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1030	1030	1030	780
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.75	24	23.75	24	8,500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,250,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	680	685	680	680	31,670
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	20,000
Piltel	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	230,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	422.5	422.5	407.5	412.5	185,610
Ivantage Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	290,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	3,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.5	22.5	22.25	22.25	697,000
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	1,198,200
Petron Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.54	2,404,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.88	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.65	2,959,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	26,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	160,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23	23	23	23	8,200
RFM Corp.	2.26	2.34	2.26	2.34	894,000
San Miguel Corp. A	44	44	44	44	33,600
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54	54	54	176,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	3,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.95	4.85	4.9	8,537,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	738,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	150,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.006	35,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.49	0.51	14,040,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2,200,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	70,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	26	26	26	26	340,300
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.16	900,000
Ionics Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	15,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.44	300,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	400,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,100,000
Music Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.225	0.225	2,990,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	14,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	700,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.3	400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Federal Chemicals Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	2,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	202,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	300,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	270,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	90,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.25	24.5	24.25	24.5	141,700
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	300
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.74	60,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	680	685	680	685	600
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	45,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0048	0.005	0.0048	0.005	31,000,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	595	595	595	595	10
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.6	7,486,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.225	0.23	2,880,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	3,070,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.92	1.94	1.9	1.94	4,070,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	700,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	160,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,100,000
Primex Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	3,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	1,661,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2.7	2.85	2.7	2.85	68,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1	1	1	1	1,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.021	0.024	0.021	0.023	58,100,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	140,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0036	0.0034	0.0036	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	70,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	40,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	914,220	39,539,100.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	160,338,790	246,778,220.00
PRO	21,250,000	63,254,930.00
Mining	63,409,000	1,613,000.00
OIL	82,440,000	496,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	328,352,010	351,681,850.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	495.64	DOWN 1.02
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,592.41	DOWN 16.68
PRO	543.47	DOWN 0.09
Mining	1,037.20	UP 6.70
OIL	1.89	DOWN 0.10
All Shares Index	691.07	DOWN 2.18
Composite	1,184.84	DOWN 7.89

NO. OF ADVANCES: 10; NO. OF DECLINES: 40; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 42;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 92; NO. OF TRADES: 1,719

Currencies

Jan. 15, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.117943	1.000000	51.2610
Japan	Yen	0.008468	0.007575	0.3883
United Kingdom	Pound	1.621353	1.450300	74.3438
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143355	0.128231	6.5732
Switzerland	Franc	0.675372	0.604120	30.9678
Canada	Dollar	0.701081	0.627117	32.1466
Singapore	Dollar	0.609565	0.545256	27.9504
Australia	Dollar	0.579846	0.518672	26.5876
Bahrain	Dinar	2.965524	2.652661	135.9781
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298102	0.266652	13.6688
Brunei	Dollar	0.607908	0.543774	27.8744
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000096	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025477	0.022789	1.1682
UAE	Dirham	0.304451	0.272331	13.9600
Korea	Won	0.000859	0.000768	0.0394
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.894500	45.8530
Brazil	Real	0.464455	0.415455	21.2966
Denmark	Kroner	0.134541	0.120347	6.1691
India	Rupee	0.023165	0.020721	1.0622
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.294235	0.263193	13.4915
Mexico	New Peso	0.121262	0.108469	5.5602
New Zealand	Dollar	0.473665	0.423693	21.7189
Norway	Kroner	0.125699	0.112438	5.7637
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018679	0.016708	0.8565
South Africa	Rand	0.097808	0.087489	4.4848
Sweden	Kroner	0.108132	0.096724	4.9582
Syria	Pound	0.021877	0.019569	1.0031
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032006	0.028629	1.4676
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001466	0.001311	0.0672

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COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

Four-day work week

DON'T look now, but Malacañang will likely approve a proposal to cut down the work week in April and May to only four days, leaving Fridays free and creating three-day weekends for the summer school break.

The proposal has been submitted by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, who claimed that President Macapagal-Arroyo had already indicated initial approval of the plan following the success of the same "holiday economics" adopted in the Christmas-to-New Year run-up.

For the two-month summer sked, workers, per the proposal, will be asked to turn in 10 hours a day from Monday to Thursday instead of the usual eight so as to make up for the lost workday and hopefully not impair productivity.

And so as not to disrupt vital government and corporate services, indispensable offices will continue to be open on Fridays.

The same logic and economics—boosting domestic tourism amid a worrisome slide in international visitor arrivals—has impelled Gordon to suggest shortening the work week.

Critics claim the plan serve to only lower the already low Philippine productivity and to further boost sloth among the locals.

Gordon, however, claims the shortened week forces Filipino workers to be deadline-and-results conscious, not clock watchers. More important, the longer holidays boost entrepreneurism and mom-and-pop businesses, he said.

In addition, the long weekends encourage Metro Manila-based workers to visit their families and relatives in the provinces, thus allowing Metro Manila-based money to spread its sunshine throughout the archipelago and not just confine the spending to the metropolitan shopping malls.

Texting updates

SMART says its subscribers may now send text as well as receive text messages from New York and New Jersey GSM subscribers of VoiceStream. We tried sending text to a New York resident yesterday, just to prove the claimed service, and we are delighted to report that it did work, both ways.

In addition, both Smart and Globe are now working to allow text interconnection with the various Hong Kong cell phone companies, now that intra-Hong Kong text messaging has been introduced, to a great success, by the territory's cellular companies among their subscribers.

And finally, both Smart and Globe denied the ongoing text campaign that both companies are about to increase the cost of sending text messages to local subscribers to P5/message from the current P1/message.

SGV's parent

IF YOU are one of the unlucky investors who got stuck with Victorias Milling shares of the IPO-days or PLDT/Piltel before the Metro Pacific takeover and could not make heads or tails why auditing firm SGV failed to detect/report the multibillion-peso debt sinkholes that afflicted the listed companies, you are in distinguished company.

Even SGV's parent company, Arthur Andersen, is suffering the same auditorial lapses that its Philippine offspring seems to have been infected with ever since its glory days during the Marcos years.

Arthur Andersen not only helped cook the books of the failed American energy trading giant, Enron, its auditors even went to the extent of destroying voluminous records so as to hide Enron's $600 million-to-$1.2 billion in losses.

The Enron scandal, and the company's close links with and failed rescue attempts from key Bush administration officials, has even edged off the long-running Afghanistan bombing stories from the headlines of the major US dailies and newsweeklies.

While the public investors and Enron's 20,000 employees lost their life-savings, the Enron chair made $205 million in four years from stock-option profits, skimming off his shareholdings while the company quietly and profusely bled.

Heard through the grapevine

TWO sports commissioners have been using their official travels both local and overseas to conduct a not-so-secret affair that even Philippine Sports Commission Chair Carlos Tuason, himself a recycled bachelor/man-about-town, is getting to be scandalized. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

Bangko Sentral raises $250M from bond float

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has raised another $250 million from the four-year Eurobond facility handled by JP Morgan Chase.

This was in addition to the $550 million secured by the central bank from the same facility late last year.

The new loan brought to $800 million the total size of the four-year Eurobonds maturing in 2005 at a price cheaper than last year's BSP borrowing.

BSP Deputy Governor Armando Tetangco Jr. said the new borrowing from the old facility would be used to support the country's dollar reserves above the psychological level of $14 billion.

However, he admitted that the proceeds of the borrowing could be used for other purpose such as loan repayments since the gross international reserves stood at a healthy $15.7 billion as of end-2001.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura had said that the central bank might pre-pay some of its loans this year.

"We would use the new loan mainly to help manage the dollar reserves and support the country's balance-of-payments. But we could be flexible," Tetangco said.

The central bank official pointed out that the $250-million borrowing would only offer investors a yield of 7.99 percent compared to the 9-percent yield of those who bought the bonds in October and November last year.

The cost of Philippine sovereign borrowings together with other emerging markets had gone down substantially from the rates during the fourth quarter last year.

The improved sentiment toward the Philippine also pushed the national government to conclude a $750-million, 15-year global bond issue last week.

"With the amount increased to $800 million, the BSP bond issue is now one of the more liquid Asian bonds and is part of several international bond indices. We have to take advantage of the positive investors sentiment to emerging market borrowings," Buenaventura added.

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Q: How does The Inquirer protect small fry?

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A: We keep an eye on the big fish.

INQUIRER
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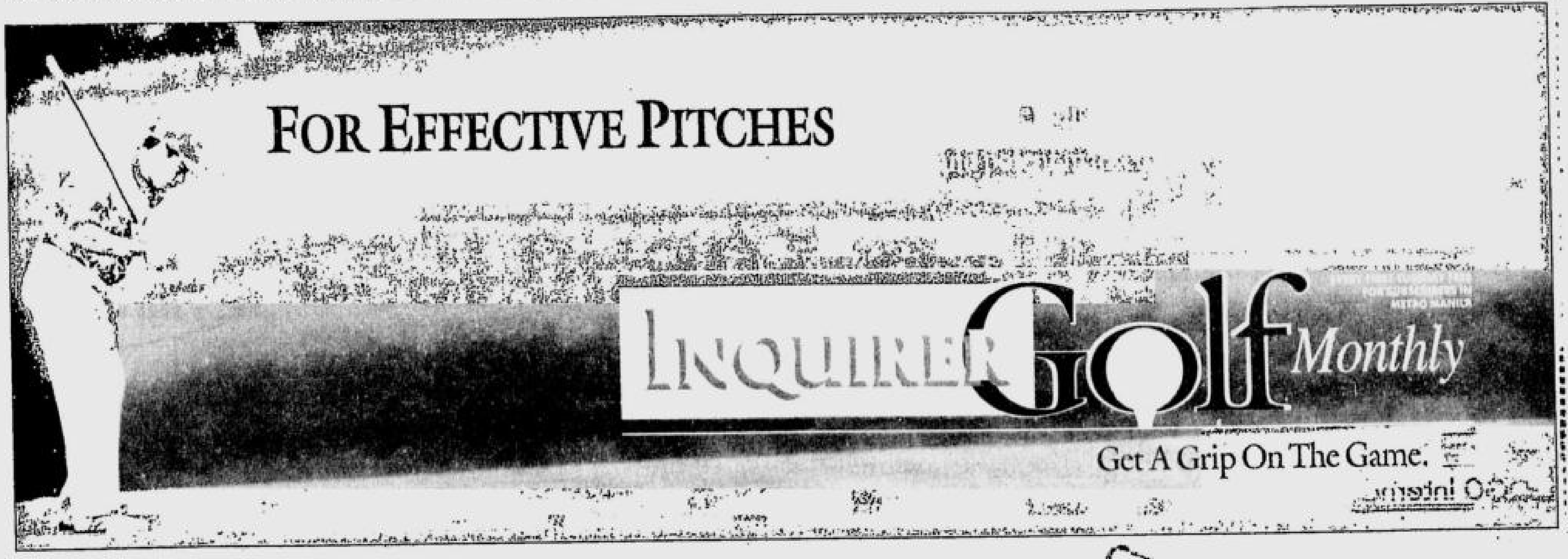

Palace asked to intervene in FMC-Ford/Mazda row

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FRANCISCO Motors Corp. is betting on Malacañang as its last card in getting compensation from Ford Motor Corp. and Mazda Corp. of Japan because it cannot afford to file a case against the foreign automotive giants.

In a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, FMC chair Fernando T. Francisco said: "We have been so financially weakened by the calibrated actions of Ford and Mazda, that we cannot even afford to go to court to seek redress because of the enormous filing fee required. This is why we are seeking your intercession."

FMC, which has been selling Mazdas here since the 1980s, needs P30 million in filing fee to pursue its case to get at least $35 million in compensation from Mazda for its breach of contract. Mazda has offered only $4 million.

Francisco said FMC has been forced to cut down its personnel by half to 600 and suspend the operations of its Mazda pickup line after the Japanese vehicle maker—which is 30 percent owned by Ford—stopped giving quotations for the delivery of new models of Mazda B2500 and Powervan in 1999.

In 1998, FMC and Mazda renewed their agreement for another four years up to 2002. But Francisco said Mazda started refusing to honor the agreement in late 1999 apparently to pave the way for the entry of the Ford Ranger in the country. The Ranger and B2500 are similar models under different badges. Francisco said Ford would not have been allowed to register the Ranger in the country without a "No Objection Letter" from FMC.

But the BOI has flip-flopped on the issue of Ford's registration over the last two years. Previously, the agency had required Ford to get "No Objection Letter" from FMC as a requirement for the registration of the Ranger and Econovan (which is similar to the Mazda Powervan). FMC gave its consent on condition that it would be made a partner in a venture with Mazda and Itochu Corp. of Japan that will market Mazda pickups and vans here. But Mazda did not live up to its side of the bargain.

When FMC withdrew its opposition and sought a stop to the sale of the Ranger, the BOI reversed its previous position and ruled that the Ranger and B2500 were different models.

Francisco reiterated his stand that the BOI should no longer allow Ford to continue the assembly of the Ranger here. "If the BOI will continue not to act, we have faith that you (President Macapagal) would," Francisco said in the letter to the President.

TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT

CAB gives in to PAL request

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CIVIL Aeronautics Board on Monday allowed Philippine Airlines Inc. to temporarily use two out of the three flight entitlements to Korea that were earlier awarded to the Gokongwei-owned Cebu Pacific Air.

In a telephone interview, Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap, who presided over the CAB meeting on Monday, said PAL would just be "borrowing" the Korea entitlements up to March 1.

"We gave three frequencies to Cebu Pacific and one frequency to PAL, in addition to the 13 it already has. Unfortunately, PAL said it still needed two more (frequencies) for its Cebu-Korea flights. So we lent the two Cebu Pacific entitlements to PAL through a temporary permit that will lapse on March 1," he told the Inquirer.

Yap said CAB had to give in to PAL's petition in view of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon's appeal to the agency to prioritize tourism packages that would attract travelers to come and visit the Philippines.

"Korea is a very lucrative market. Korean tourists are the ones maintaining our current tourism levels. This was why we granted PAL's petition. Cebu Pacific will not be mounting its Korea flights until March 2, so in the meantime, PAL can use the frequencies," he said.

He assured Cebu Pacific that it would not lose its entitlements to PAL and that CAB would not extend PAL's permit beyond March 1.

"The pre-condition is that these (frequencies) would be given to PAL on a temporary basis. We already decided to give the Korea entitlements to Cebu Pacific earlier. You can't give entitlements and then take them back," Yap said.

Documents obtained by the Inquirer contained additional points that ensured the temporary nature of PAL's permit to use the two frequencies.

"This is certainly just a temporary permit. Cebu Pacific will have its entitlements back in time for its first flight to Korea," Yap stressed.

CITYSTATE SAVINGS IPO

Manila Archbishop Jaime L. Cardinal Sin witnessed the recent listing of Citystate Savings Bank, a partnership of Singaporean and Filipino investors, at the Philippine Stock Exchange. Also at Citystate's listing on Jan. 3 were PSE president Ernest Leung (center) and chair Felipe Yap (2nd from right), Citystate Bank founding chair Antonio L. Cabangon Chua (left), Securities and Exchange Commission chair Lilia Bautista (partly hidden), Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, and Citystate Savings president D. Alfred A. Cabangon (right).

Psalm to hold roadshow for $400-M bond issue

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. is considering starting next week an international roadshow to promote a $400-million bond offering.

Psalm, which is assuming National Power Corp.'s assets and liabilities as of end-2000, will float the dollar-denominated bonds to cover for the state-owned power agency's financial requirements this year.

In an interview, Psalm president Edgardo del Fonso said the roadshow was tentatively slated for Jan. 23 but this, he said, would be confirmed this week.

The flotation will be arranged by United States-based investment firm Bear Stearns. It was originally set for last November but was deferred due to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Del Fonso added that Psalm was inclined to start the roadshow in Europe as what the national government did with its bond issue late last year. "We will likely do the US last."

Last month, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said three investment banks have offered to underwrite a bond flotation involving as much as $500 million that would cover half of National Power Corp.'s $1-billion financial needs for 2002.

Perez said the offers were made immediately after the issuance of the euro bonds worth 500 million euros (about $450 million) last year for the state power firm's financial needs for the remainder of 2001.

"However, we decided to take it easy and perhaps wait for the market to further improve (before we take the next step)," Perez said.

Also last month, Del Fonso said Napocor's financial needs for 2001 was as good as covered with the issuance of the 500 million euro worth of bonds.

The five-year euro bond was syndicated by Deutsche Bank, Salomon Smith Barney and UBS Warburg.

Napocor needed $530 million last year but Del Fonso said the balance might be raised through short-term bridge-financing from local banks.

Banks

(From page B1)

stamp tax, transfer tax, and lawyer's fee just to foreclose an asset.

"It becomes frustrating and unfair that after exercising options to help the client, banks are even punished by the courts that restrain them from their right to collect money or to liquefy the assets," said a bank official.

Of the P9.55 billion in bad loans in October alone, the universal banks accounted for P7.37 billion, the foreign branches had P170 million, the regular commercial banks had P1.82 billion, and government banks had P193 million.

Banks' holdings of real and other properties owned or acquired or Ropoa also went up by 1.6 percent to P151.06 billion in October while gross assets dropped by 1.17 percent.

Shares

(From page B1)

of power grab and protests, investors used this as an excuse to stay off the market," said Astro del Castillo of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines.

Security forces have been placed on high alert for rallies expected to be held on Sunday by supporters of Ms Macapagal and of her predecessor Joseph Estrada, now in detention while being tried for massive corruption.

Ms Macapagal was installed to power Jan. 20 last year through a popular revolt that ousted Estrada.

Ms Macapagal has claimed there have been "shadowy plots" against her by unidentified personalities but Estrada has rejected suspicion by some that he was behind attempts to oust her.

"I think people are staying on the sidelines because there is no major story to work on," added Enrique Santa Ana of DBS Vickers Ballas Securities. *AFP*

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INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING AS AMENDED

The PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) in good standing to apply for qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I. Work Order No. : **WSC-01-004**
II. Project Title : **Earthworks and Slope Protection Works of PRII Expansion Area II**
III. Scope of Work : Clearing and grubbing to include removal of obstruction, excavation, backfilling, spreading and compaction up to the required elevation, completion of CHB Perimeter Fence enclosure and drainage manholes.
IV. Minimum Equipment Requirement :

Equipment Description	No. of Units
1. Bulldozer, 200-225 HP	3
2. Bulldozer, 300-335 HP	2
3. Payloader, 4 cu. yd. capacity	1
4. Dumptruck, 10-15 cu.m. capacity	12
5. Road Grader, 125 HP	2
6. Vibratory Compactor, Sheeps Fooy, 9-10 Tons	3
7. Vibratory Compactor, Smooth Drum, 9-10 Tons	3
8. Water Truck, 10,000 Liters capacity	1

V. Project Location : Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
VI. Approved Budget : Pesos Twenty Seven Million One Hundred Twenty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eight and 10/100 (P27,126,908.10)
VII. Source of Funding : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
VIII. Estimated Contract Duration : One Hundred Thirty Five (135) Calendar Days
IX. PCAB License Minimum Requirement
License Qualifications
Classification : General Engineering
Category : A
Registration Qualifications
Kinds of Project : Road, Highway Pavement, Railways, Airport Horizontal Structures and Buildings
Size Range : Medium B
X. Similar Contracts : Land Site Development such as General Earthworks and Slope Protection Works
XI. Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Requirement : Pesos Two Million Seven Hundred Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Ninety and 81/100 (P2,712,690.81)
XII. Eligibility Statement Forms : One (1) set each to be filled up and submitted for every project
Cost of Forms : One Hundred Pesos each set (P100.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : **January 8-21, 2002** from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Statements/ Documents : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
or
PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
Deadline of Submission : On or before **January 28, 2002** at 3:00 p.m.
XIII. Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility
Date and Time of Issuance : January 21 - February 18, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
XIV. Pre-bid Conference Date and Time : March 14, 2002 at 9:30 a.m.
Venue : PPDC Conference Room PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
XV. Bid/Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents
Cost of Documents : One Thousand Pesos each set (P1,000.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : February 21 - March 06, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
or
PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
Deadline of Submission : On or before April 12, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.
Place of Submission : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
XVI. BID OPENING IN THE SAME VENUE WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Prospective bidders are required to submit original copy of Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate/s and original copies of pertinent documents such as Contractor's PCAB License, audited Financial Statements, etc. for verification/authentication purposes.

All particulars relative to pre-qualification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and its implementing Rules and Relations, as amended, and other applicable rules and regulations.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

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(PDI – Jan. 8, 11 & 16, 2002)

Infra projects in energy sector lined up for ODA

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT has lined up about P5.16 billion worth of infrastructure projects in the energy sector for official development assistance or ODA funding this year.

National Economic and Development Authority documents indicated that at least four power-related projects were lined up for funding by various multilateral and bilateral lenders. The government, the documents showed, was hoping to start these projects this year.

One of these projects is the rural electrification project of the Department of Energy, which is being considered for a P2.5-billion loan from the World Bank.

The documents said the project, apart from the outright installation of new power facilities in rural areas, would also involve the following:

- The improvement of the performance of rural electric cooperatives;
- The planned takeover of the sub-transmission assets of the National Power Corp. (NPC), and,
- The enhancement of the low electrification ratio in rural areas.

For the Asian Development Bank funding, two power-generation projects were identified, the documents showed. These are various transmission-related projects worth P2.65 billion and a program to prevent market dominance and anti-competitive behavior in the energy sector worth P107.15 million.

The documents said the ADB was keen on providing P2.65 billion for the transmission-related projects that needed to be undertaken prior to the privatization of National Power Corp.'s transmission companies.

The technical board of the Neda-led Investment Coordination Committee, which screens projects for ODA funding, has approved the project in principle but the documents said further processing would depend on financing and implementation arrangements to be submitted.

For the second project, the ADB committed to provide P107.15 million in technical assistance. Specifically, this project aims to "come up with detailed rules and regulations to promote competition, encourage market development and customer choice as well as prevent market domination, cartelization, predatory pricing and any anti-competitive behavior in the deregulated downstream oil industry."

The technical assistance is not linked to the ADB's investment loan for the transmission, interconnection and reinforcement project.

The fourth project in the pipeline is the Palawan Provincial Energy Master Plan. No project cost estimate was indicated for the project but it will be funded by the Japanese government. The project aims to come up with a master plan for selected priority projects for the full power development of Palawan, particularly the construction and installation of power plants, transmission and distribution units.

Consortium says Sept. 11 to force consolidation of travel industry

By Abigail L. Ho

STAR Alliance, a consortium of 15 international airlines, said yesterday consolidation would be a trend in the airline industry this year following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

"In Europe, there would probably be only three major airlines. At present, there are around 20. In Australasia (Australia and New Zealand), there's room for only one carrier," Star Alliance Asia-Pacific corporate communications director Alastair Carthew said in an interview.

Carthew said the Sept. 11 incident underscored the need to consolidate the global airline industry. It sent the industry into a tailspin, as tourists postponed travel plans and generally balked at stepping into commercial planes.

On Sept. 11, members of the al-Qaida terrorist network hijacked three commercial aircraft, using two as battering rams to level the World Trade Center and destroy a section of the Pentagon. One aircraft, believed to be set on a course for the White House, crashed on a field in Pennsylvania as passengers struggled with the hijackers.

Carthew said most small airlines were either eaten up by larger players or had to lay off most of their personnel just to stay afloat.

"Sept. 11 forced a lot of airlines to reduce their costs dramatically and quickly by reducing labor. They were not making money, but they were not losing money either, and they also had leaner overheads," he told reporters.

The aviation industry, however, may be in for some bright spots this year as the people's need to travel outweighs fears of terrorism, he said.

"The airline industry will recover. It has showed resilience in the past. People still need to travel, and air travel is still the quickest, safest and most economic way to do so. Provided the (US) economy comes out of recession in the second quarter and there are no more massive terrorist attacks, the industry will recover this year," he said.

As for travelers, Carthew said Australia, New Zealand and Thailand would most probably attract the most tourists as these were deemed "safe" places to visit.

"The traffic to the US and Europe will drop, but the traffic to Australasia and Asia will increase dramatically," he said.

"Leisure traffic will look for cost-effective and safe destinations. Australasia and Thailand are the places to visit, and everybody's also looking at China," he said.

Star Alliance has 15 international airlines as members. Those that are present in the Philippines include Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways and Lufthansa.

PDIC starts paying Unitrust depositors

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) said it would start servicing claims for insured deposits in closed Unitrust Development Bank at the bank's head office and 12 branches on Jan. 18, 2002.

The PDIC, in a statement issued yesterday, also announced a servicing schedule that was prepared based on the alphabetical order of the depositors' surnames and the company names, for corporate accounts. The schedule is as follows: Jan. 18, A to B; Jan. 21, C to D; Jan. 22, E to J; Jan. 23, K to O; Jan. 24, P to R, and Jan. 25, S to Z.

PDIC said it would act on the claims on a first-come, first-served basis Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the branches where they maintained their deposits. They are likewise required to submit their proofs of deposits such as savings passbook, original certificates of time deposit, unused checks or latest bank statements, and latest identification documents with the depositor's specimen signature. In the course of claims processing, PDIC representatives may require additional documents from the claimants.

To facilitate payment, PDIC will issue pre-printed checks that may either be deposited in the depositor's account in any operating bank or encashed in designated Landbank branches. Depositors who failed to file their claims during the specified servicing dates in the branches can file personally at or through mail to the PDIC office located at the PDIC Bldg., 2228 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.

Unitrust, which was placed under PDIC receivership on Jan. 4, has 13 offices (including head office) in Metro Manila. It has 14,456 accounts amounting to P232.85 million. The total insured deposit liabilities were estimated at P121.24 million.

IT outsourcing seen as a viable strategy

COMPANIES closely watching their bottom lines in this period of global recession would do well to consider information technology outsourcing as a way to keep their costs down while keeping the quality of their products or services high.

In this era of Internet, when work can be done from practically anywhere on the globe in real time, outsourcing IT or IT-enabled business requirements (such as accounting, human resources management, engineering, animation and others) to competent yet low-cost external service providers whether in one's own country or offshore is fast gaining popularity in business capitals worldwide. McKinsey & Co. expects this market to reach $142.2 billion by 2008.

The benefits are multiple. Aside from the cost and quality advantages, companies also gain more flexibility, agility and time to devote to their core business. Tradeoffs can be virtually eliminated through careful selection of the right outsourcing partner.

Fortunately for local companies and multinational companies operating in the Philippines, more and more of the right outsourcing partners can be found in our shores.

There are hundreds of small, medium-sized and large firms in our country offering outsourcing services for the IT and IT-enabled business requirements of not only local but even global companies the likes of America Online, Barnes & Noble, Citibank, Caltex, Andersen Consulting, Su Microsystems and Hitachi Corp. This means that these outsourcing firms are highly reputable and competent, and that their rates are reasonable, constrained as they are to compete for global clients with other low-priced outsourcing locations such as China and India.

The most reputable and promising of these local IT outsourcing firms will be featured in year two of the country's first and only IT outsourcing and subcon exhibition, to be held on Feb. 7 to 9 this year at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Dubbed "e-services Philippines 2002," the expo will bare the world-class capabilities of local firms in business process outsourcing (application systems development, database design and management, finance and accounting services, supply chain management, marketing and sales, logistics management and human resource development), customer contact (voice processing, data warehousing, sales force automation, Web-based customer care and mobile solutions), consultancy (project management, Internet systems development and systems integration) and content development (animation, engineering and design, graphics design, remote education, software development, transcriptions and website development).

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Head Office and Branches)
As of December 14, 2001

ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Items	P	790,806,512
Due from Bangko Sentral		231,469,876
Due from Other Banks		1,405,874,587
Interbank Loans Receivable		10,649,469,605
Trading Account Securities (Net)		1,618,102,403
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		14,097,066,545
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		14,249,277,335
Equity Investments (Net)		328,836,364
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,251,360,594
Other Assets (Net)		8,675,966,299
Property Owned/Acquired		5,149,402,596
Others		3,526,563,703
TOTAL ASSETS	P	54,298,230,120
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	7,287,131,359
Savings Deposits		9,052,944,576
Time Deposits		11,515,217,925
Special/Other Deposits		12,050,200
Due to Bangko Sentral		15,836,141
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		998,370,962
Bills Payable:		8,747,858,566
BSP – Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		7,520,300,296
Others		1,208,512,602
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		709,787,004
Other Liabilities		3,152,794,873
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	41,491,991,606
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		5,667,402,821
Surplus Reserves		51,777,770
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	12,806 238,514
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	54,298,230,120
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	280,030,834
Bills for Collection		141,354,064
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		9,519,722,795
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		4,023,230,120
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		4,591,125,883
Invested in:		
Government Securities		1,772,234,772
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		197,653,275
Loans & Discounts		14,074,558
Other Assets		2,607,163,278
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,446,919,267
Common Trust Funds		236,533,625
Investment/Fund Management		907,672,991
Other Contingent Accounts		66,319,082
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	18,621,782,778

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	268,499,226
b) Banks		200,478,753
c) Trust Department		1,699,810,323
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
a) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)		244%
b) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)		312%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans		2,910,430,431
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		10.93%
5. Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets		5,975,883,158
6. General Provision for Loan Losses		463,570,821
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses		1,263,757,411
8. Return on Equity (ROE)		7.45%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances		579,920,264
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		2.18%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances		-
12. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

We, Ysmael V. Baysa and Victor B. Valdepeñas of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) YSMAEL V. BAYSA
Financial Controller

(Sgd) VICTOR B. VALDEPEÑAS
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of January 2002, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax No. 03496737 issued at Manila on January 30, 2001 and Community Tax No. 06107698 issued at Quezon City on February 10, 2001, respectively.

RAYMUND HILARION R. GENILO
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2002
PTR NO. 1974072
JAN. 31, 2000
MAKATI CITY

Doc. No. 064
Page No. 14
Book No. LII
Series of 2002.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of December 14, 2001

ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Items	P	792,497,190
Due from Bangko Sentral		231,469,876
Due from Other Banks		1,405,874,587
Interbank Loans Receivable		10,649,469,605
Trading Account Securities (Net)		1,638,131,240
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		14,097,066,545
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		13,931,401,387
Equity Investments (Net)		75,375,202
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,258,917,025
Other Assets (Net)		9,211,039,602
Property Owned/Acquired		5,149,402,596
Others		4,061,637,006
TOTAL ASSETS	P	54,291,242,259
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	7,231,361,622
Savings Deposits		9,052,944,576
Time Deposits		11,515,217,925
Special/Other Deposits		12,050,200
Due to Bangko Sentral		15,836,141
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		998,370,962
Bills Payable:		8,748,358,566
BSP – Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		7,520,300,296
Others		1,209,012,602
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		709,787,004
Other Liabilities		3,201,076,749
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	41,485,003,745
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		5,667,402,821
Surplus Reserves		51,777,770
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	12,806,238,514
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	54,291,242,259
Minority Interest in Allied Undertakings/Subsidiaries/Affiliates		-
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	280,030,834
Bills for Collection		141,354,064
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		9,519,722,795
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		4,023,230,120
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		4,591,125,883
Invested in:		
Government Securities		1,772,234,772
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		197,653,275
Loans & Discounts		14,074,558
Other Assets		2,607,163,278
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,446,919,267
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TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	18,621,782,778

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	268,499,226
b) Banks		200,478,753
c) Trust Department		1,699,810,323

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries:
   - a) UnionBank Currency Brokers Corporation
   - b) UBP Capital Corporation
   - c) UBP Securities, Inc.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

We, Ysmael V. Baysa and Victor B. Valdepeñas of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) YSMAEL V. BAYSA
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NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2002
PTR NO. 1974072
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Page No. 14
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Puerto Princesa City
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RISE e-COMMERCE SYSTEMS INC.

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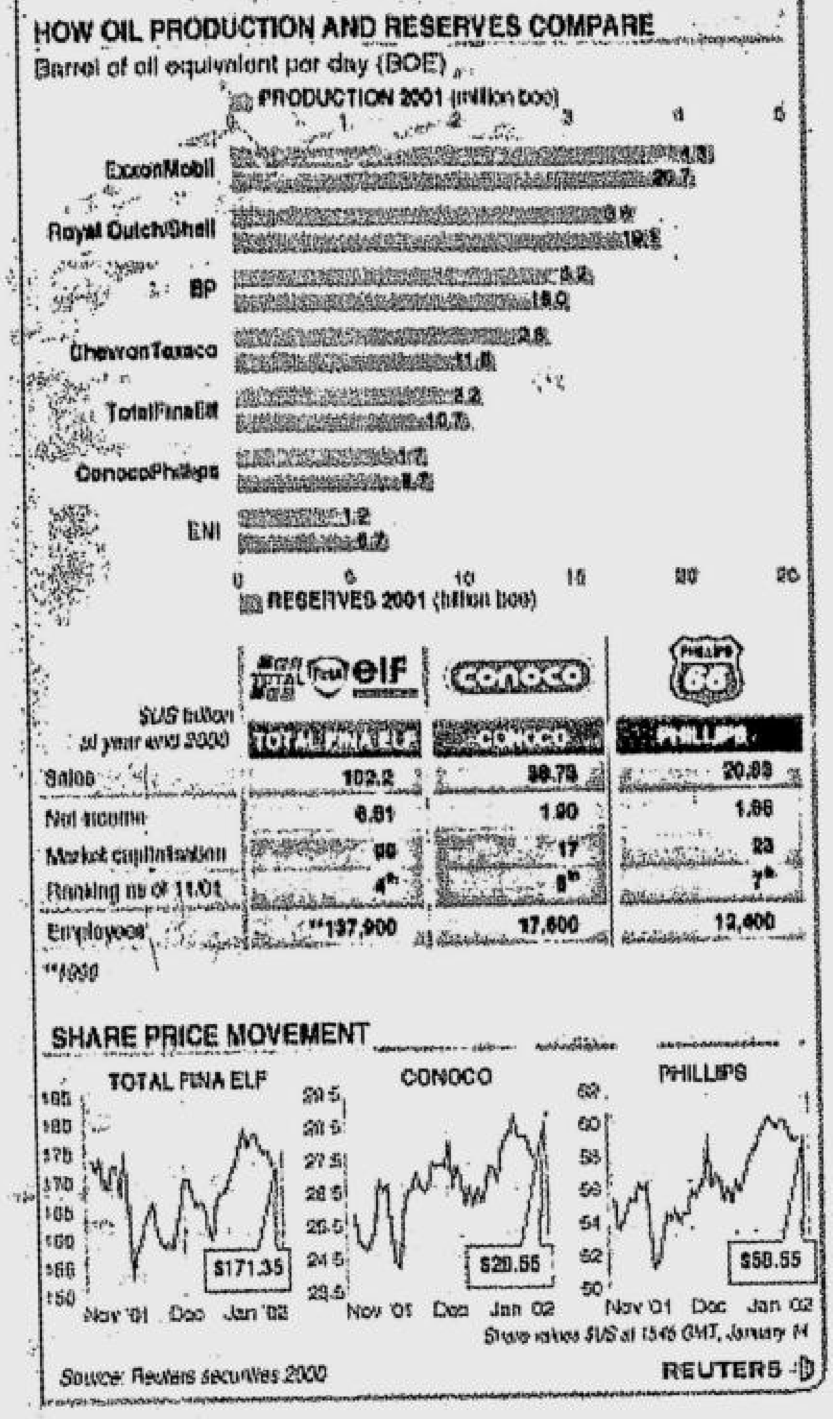
TOTALFINA ELF – CONOCO MERGER ?

Unconfirmed reports suggest French oil company TotalFina Elf will bid for U.S. rival Conoco Inc. interfering with Phillips Petroleum's planned merger launched last November.

The Phillips merger would create 'ConocoPhillips' the worlds sixth largest oil company



$US billion at year end 2000	TOTALFINA ELF	CONOCO	PHILLIPS
Sales	102.2	38.79	20.83
Net income	6.81	1.90	1.86
Market capitalisation	90	17	23
Ranking as of 11.01	4th	8th	7th
Employees	**137,900	17,600	12,400

**1999

Source: Reuters securities 2000

Trade body rules against US in $4-B export tax breaks row

GENEVA—The World Trade Organization on Monday ruled that US export tax breaks for US companies violated WTO rules, handing a major victory to the European Union in the long battle between the two economic superpowers.

The WTO appellate body upheld an earlier ruling in favor of the 15-nation European Union, which had complained that the US tax breaks undermined European industry to the tune of about $4 billion a year.

The judgement now opens the way for the European Union to apply for sanctions against the United States. It has said in the past it will seek damages of $4 billion a year. If approved, the compensation will be the biggest in a WTO case.

Voicing disappointment, the White House said the US would consult with Congress and the affected US interests on the next steps to take.

"The United States respects its WTO obligations, which serve America's interests. We intend to seek to cooperate with the EU in order to manage and resolve this dispute," White House national security spokesperson Sean McCormack said.

The European Union expressed pleasure at the final ruling in the long-running saga.

"We now have a definitive legal ruling on the FSC case," EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said in a statement from Geneva.

"Of course I'm pleased that the WTO has confirmed what we always believed. Now it is up to the US to comply to settle this matter once and for all," Lamy said.

Monday's ruling was the fourth by the WTO against the United States in the case and followed the appeal by the United States of an earlier judgement that the export tax breaks were inconsistent with WTO subsidy rules.

The European Union first challenged the US tax breaks at the Geneva-based WTO in 1997 on the grounds that they provided a de facto subsidy that gave US companies an unfair advantage over European rivals.

The US Congress passed in 2000 legislation overhauling the law after the WTO ruled against Washington, but the European Union complained to the WTO that the changes were inadequate.

The WTO's dispute settlement panel again agreed, ruling last August that the United States was still in violation.

The dispute centers around the "foreign sales corporation" provision of the US tax law, which allows US companies to establish offshore subsidiaries where they enjoy significant tax breaks on profits earned from exports.

Most of the FSC corporations are located in Barbados as well as US territories, such as the US Virgin Islands and Guam.

The WTO appellate body said in its final ruling: "The appellate body recommends that the dispute-settlement body request the United States to bring the Extraterritorial Income Exclusion Act measure found in this report and in the panel report as modified by this report to be inconsistent with its obligations into conformity."

The European Commission noted the next procedural step would be the automatic revival of an arbitration panel to decide on the amount of countermeasures the EU could ask to have imposed.

An arbitrators' report is expected by the end of March, it added.

However, the 15-nation bloc stressed it was willing to hold talks with its biggest trading partner.

"As has been the case throughout and if the US so wishes the European Commission stands ready to engage in meaningful discussions with the US on how it intends to comply with these rulings in order to settle the dispute once and for all," a statement said.

AFP

Are Asian currencies parting ways with yen?

SINGAPORE—Recent steep gains among Asia's currencies against the yen offer a glimmer of hope that recovering global demand may be enough to offset any damage to the region's economic competitiveness due to a weakening Japanese currency.

Although the regionals still broadly track the yen, this correlation has been much less pronounced than immediately after the 1997-98 Asian economic crisis.

Indeed, they have strongly outperformed the yen since September's attacks on the United States, which many economists see as marking the low point in the global economic cycle.

The pressing question now is how long the regional currencies can stray from the yen's shadow. Some economists say the wild card will be the pace at which the world economy picks up, not the extent to which the yen may weaken.

"Recent yen depreciation has sparked concerns about derailing Asian economies and pushing the region into a competitive devaluation," said a Goldman Sachs report.

"We feel that these fears are overstated, as accelerating external demand recovery should more than offset pressures from a weaker yen on non-Japan Asia (NJA) exports and the exchange rate adjustment would be relatively modest," the report said.

Most economists believe that as long as the global economy turns around, a yen fall to 140-150 per dollar from current levels just under 132 will stir, but not shake, the rest of the region.

Strange bedfellows

Before the crisis in 1997-1998, most Asian currencies were tied in one way or another to the US dollar.

After the crisis, most of those links were cut and the correlation between Asian currencies and the yen grew substantially. Only two countries steered a different course—Malaysia and China.

The close correlation was underpinned by the view that Japan and the rest of Asia were on the same economic cycle. Moreover, Japan was both a market for Asian exports as well as a competitor.

However, that close link has been gradually reduced, with Asian economic momentum ex-Japan picking up over the past few months as the world economy has troughed. Japan's domestic woes, meanwhile, have sunk its economy into a third recession in a decade.

The Korean won, for example, has gained 9.8 percent against the yen since the end of September, while the Thai baht has recovered around 10 percent.

"It does look as though Asia has started to pick up a wind of change in the manufacturing cycle, which we believed has bottomed, much faster than many places in the world," said Adam Le Mesurier, an economist at Goldman Sachs in Singapore.

"If you said to me six months ago that the dollar-yen will rise 15 percent in a month and a half, I would have been a bit nervous about its impact on the region," he said.

Reuters

US firms whine about greenback's strength

NEW YORK—Corporate America always seems to have something to gripe about when it comes to foreign currency fluctuations—this time it's the Japanese yen's rapid slide and, to a lesser extent, Argentina's monster devaluation.

Just ignore all the whining, the pros say.

Many Wall Street experts see currency fluctuations as part of the risk of doing business overseas. And if anything, the dollar's strength is another vote of confidence foreign investors are casting in US assets.

"In tougher times, currency is at times an overused alibi," said David Sowerby, chief market strategist at investment firm Loomis Sayles & Co. "It's somewhat akin to retailers stating that bad weather impacted their sales."

This week and the following mark the busiest stretch of the fourth-quarter earnings-reporting season, and the forecasts are bleak. Wall Street is expecting earnings to show a decline unlike anything since the recession of 1990-1991.

A strong dollar will pinch some companies, like carmakers and other manufacturers. But as another brutal earnings season approaches, other firms may blame the dollar as a scapegoat.

The flip side is a strong US dollar benefits the stock market overall.

"A strong dollar does hurt US manufacturing exports abroad because it does makes them less competitive," said Salomon Smith Barney economist Christopher Wiegand. "But conversely it also does make US capital markets more attractive to foreign investors. That's hardly a bad thing."

Foreign investment in US stocks and bonds during the first nine months of 2001 totaled $357.6 billion—more than all the foreign investment in 1999.

Scapegoats

Last year, as the euro's value tanked 12 percent against the dollar, US companies also began crying about how their European earnings were suffering in dollar terms and exports were taking a hit. But as the euro recovered in value, those complaints evaporated.

Now, US manufacturers and automakers are beginning to yelp about the Japanese yen's sharp 14-percent drop in the past three months, calling it an unfair Japanese ploy that will hurt exports and damage their bottom lines.

Last week, the chief executive of General Motors Corp. accused Japanese policymakers of purposely keeping the yen weak to give its automakers a competitive edge in the United States.

GM also said Argentina's economic woes and currency devaluation would hurt its earnings. Argentina earlier this month dismantled its currency's one-for-one peg to the US dollar. The Argentine peso's floating rate plummeted some 41 percent on its first day of trade on Friday.

The National Association of Manufacturers recently put political pressure on the Bush administration, asking to meet with US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill next week and saying the dollar's strength was hampering a US recovery.

Economists also said other factors were more important for a US economic rebound: that businesses aggressively cut costs and spending to fortify earnings and manufacturers cleared out their inventory glut.

The strong dollar could crimp US exports, Wiegand said. "But it's not going to make a difference in the overall pace of economic activity in 2002."

Reuters

NZ may take apple access fight to WTO

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—New Zealand may take close trading partner Australia to the World Trade Organization if it fails in its latest bid to break an 80-year ban on its apples being exported to the neighboring country.

Agriculture Minister Jim Sutton said Tuesday that New Zealand might be forced to seek an independent ruling from a WTO dispute settlement panel over Australia's continuing refusal to import its apples.

Australia claims the presence of the disease fireblight in New Zealand orchards poses a biosecurity threat to Australian pip fruit crops, a claim New Zealand has rejected after proving that fireblight also exists in Australia. Pip fruit refers to apples and pears.

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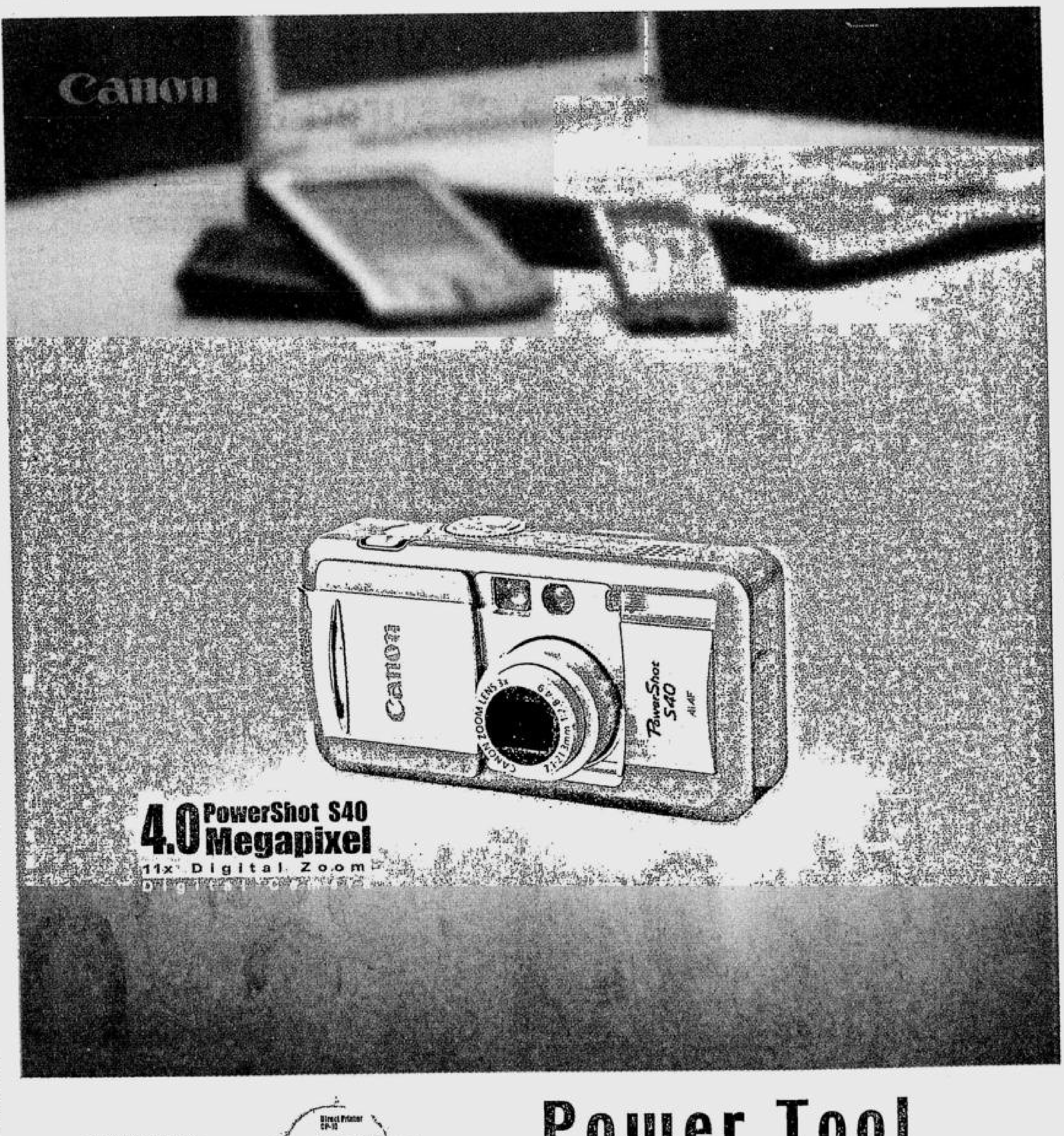
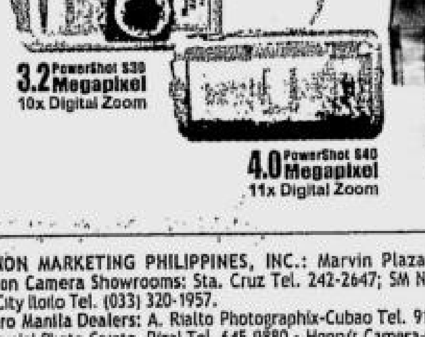
Sutton said Australia was entitled to appoint experts but added that placing Armour on the panel was just the latest of many questionable Australian decisions on the fireblight issue.

AP





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Trade body rules against US in $4-B export tax breaks row

GENEVA—The World Trade Organization on Monday ruled that US export tax breaks for US companies violated WTO rules, handing a major victory to the European Union in the long battle between the two economic superpowers.

The WTO appellate body upheld an earlier ruling in favor of the 15-nation European Union, which had complained that the US tax breaks undermined European industry to the tune of about $4 billion a year.

The judgement now opens the way for the European Union to apply for sanctions against the United States. It has said in the past it will seek damages of $4 billion a year. If approved, the compensation will be the biggest in a WTO case.

Voicing disappointment, the White House said the US would consult with Congress and the affected US interests on the next steps to take.

"The United States respects its WTO obligations, which serve America's interests. We intend to seek to cooperate with the EU in order to manage and resolve this dispute," White House national security spokesperson Sean McCormack said.

The European Union expressed pleasure at the final ruling in the long-running saga.

"We now have a definitive legal ruling on the FSC case," EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said in a statement from Geneva.

"Of course I'm pleased that the WTO has confirmed what we always believed. Now it is up to the US to comply to settle this matter once and for all," Lamy said.

Monday's ruling was the fourth by the WTO against the United States in the case and followed the appeal by the United States of an earlier judgement that the export tax breaks were inconsistent with WTO subsidy rules.

The European Union first challenged the US tax breaks at the Geneva-based WTO in 1997 on the grounds that they provided a de facto subsidy that gave US companies an unfair advantage over European rivals.

The US Congress passed in 2000 legislation overhauling the law after the WTO ruled against Washington, but the European Union complained to the WTO that the changes were inadequate.

The WTO's dispute settlement panel again agreed, ruling last August that the United States was still in violation.

The dispute centers around the "foreign sales corporation" provision of the US tax law, which allows US companies to establish offshore subsidiaries where they enjoy significant tax breaks on profits earned from exports.

Most of the FSC corporations are located in Barbados as well as US territories, such as the US Virgin Islands and Guam.

The WTO appellate body said in its final ruling: "The appellate body recommends that the dispute-settlement body request the United States to bring the Extraterritorial Income Exclusion Act measure found in this report and in the panel report as modified by this report to be inconsistent with its obligations into conformity."

The European Commission noted the next procedural step would be the automatic revival of an arbitration panel to decide on the amount of countermeasures the EU could ask to have imposed.

An arbitrators' report is expected by the end of March, it added.

However, the 15-nation bloc stressed it was willing to hold talks with its biggest trading partner.

"As has been the case throughout and if the US so wishes the European Commission stands ready to engage in meaningful discussions with the US on how it intends to comply with these rulings in order to settle the dispute once and for all," a statement said. *AFP*

Are Asian currencies parting ways with yen?

SINGAPORE—Recent steep gains among Asia's currencies against the yen offer a glimmer of hope that recovering global demand may be enough to offset any damage to the region's economic competitiveness due to a weakening Japanese currency.

Although the regionals still broadly track the yen, this correlation has been much less pronounced than immediately after the 1997-98 Asian economic crisis.

Indeed, they have strongly outperformed the yen since September's attacks on the United States, which many economists see as marking the low point in the global economic cycle.

The pressing question now is how long the regional currencies can stray from the yen's shadow. Some economists say the wild card will be the pace at which the world economy picks up, not the extent to which the yen may weaken.

"Recent yen depreciation has sparked concerns about derailing Asian economies and pushing the region into a competitive devaluation," said a Goldman Sachs report.

"We feel that these fears are overstated, as accelerating external demand recovery should more than offset pressures from a weaker yen on non-Japan Asia (NJA) exports and the exchange rate adjustment would be relatively modest," the report said.

Most economists believe that as long as the global economy turns around, a yen fall to 140-150 per dollar from current levels just under 132 will stir, but not shake, the rest of the region.

Strange bedfellows

Before the crisis in 1997-1998, most Asian currencies were tied in one way or another to the US dollar.

After the crisis, most of those links were cut and the correlation between Asian currencies and the yen grew substantially. Only two countries steered a different course—Malaysia and China.

The close correlation was underpinned by the view that Japan and the rest of Asia were on the same economic cycle. Moreover, Japan was both a market for Asian exports as well as a competitor.

However, that close link has been gradually reduced, with Asian economic momentum ex-Japan picking up over the past few months as the world economy has troughed. Japan's domestic woes, meanwhile, have sunk its economy into a third recession in a decade.

The Korean won, for example, has gained 9.8 percent against the yen since the end of September, while the Thai baht has recovered around 10 percent.

"It does look as though Asia has started to pick up a wind of change in the manufacturing cycle, which we believed has bottomed, much faster than many places in the world," said Adam Le Mesurier, an economist at Goldman Sachs in Singapore.

"If you said to me six months ago that the dollar-yen will rise 15 percent in a month and a half, I would have been a bit nervous about its impact on the region," he said. *Reuters*

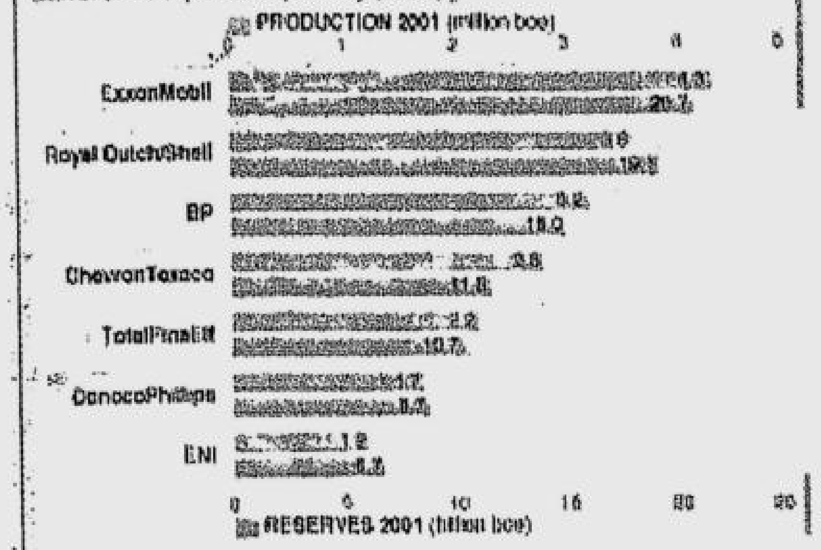
TOTALFINA ELF – CONOCO MERGER ?

Unconfirmed reports suggest French oil company TotalFina Elf will bid for U S rival Conoco Inc. interfering with Phillips Petroleum's planned merger launched last November.

The Phillips merger would create 'ConocoPhillips' the worlds sixth largest oil company

HOW OIL PRODUCTION AND RESERVES COMPARE

Barrel of oil equivalent per day (BOE)



$US billion at year end 2000	TOTALFINAELF	CONOCO	PHILLIPS
Sales	102.2	38.73	20.83
Net income	6.81	1.90	1.86
Market capitalisation	90	17	23
Ranking as of 11.01	4th	8th	7th
Employees	**137,900	17,800	12,400

**1999

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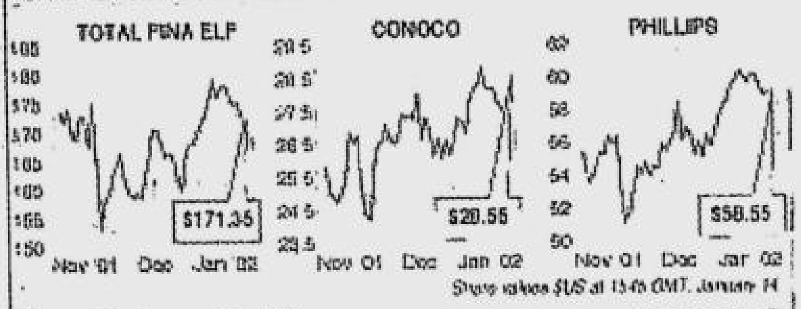

Share values $US at 15:45 GMT, January 14

Source: Reuters securities 2000

REUTERS

US firms whine about greenback's strength

NEW YORK—Corporate America always seems to have something to gripe about when it comes to foreign currency fluctuations—this time it's the Japanese yen's rapid slide and, to a lesser extent, Argentina's monster devaluation.

Just ignore all the whining, the pros say.

Many Wall Street experts see currency fluctuations as part of the risk of doing business overseas. And if anything, the dollar's strength is another vote of confidence foreign investors are casting in US assets.

"In tougher times, currency is at times an overused alibi," said David Sowerby, chief market strategist at investment firm Loomis Sayles & Co. "It's somewhat akin to retailers stating that bad weather impacted their sales."

This week and the following mark the busiest stretch of the fourth-quarter earnings reporting season; and the forecasts are bleak. Wall Street is expecting earnings to show a decline unlike anything since the recession of 1990-1991.

A strong dollar will pinch some companies, like carmakers and other manufacturers. But as another brutal earnings season approaches, other firms may blame the dollar as a scapegoat.

The flip side is a strong US dollar benefits the stock market overall.

"A strong dollar does hurt US manufacturing exports abroad because it does makes them less competitive," said Salomon Smith Barney economist Christopher Wiegand. "But conversely it also does make US capital markets more attractive to foreign investors. That's hardly a bad thing."

Foreign investment in US stocks and bonds during the first nine months of 2001 totaled $357.6 billion—more than all the foreign investment in 1999.

Scapegoats

Last year, as the euro's value tanked 12 percent against the dollar, US companies also began crying about how their European earnings were suffering in dollar terms and exports were taking a hit. But as the euro recovered in value, those complaints evaporated.

Now, US manufacturers and automakers are beginning to yelp about the Japanese yen's sharp 14-percent drop in the past three months, calling it an unfair Japanese ploy that will hurt exports and damage their bottom lines.

Last week, the chief executive of General Motors Corp. accused Japanese policymakers of purposely keeping the yen weak to give its automakers a competitive edge in the United States.

GM also said Argentina's economic woes and currency devaluation would hurt its earnings. Argentina earlier this month dismantled its currency's one-for-one peg to the US dollar. The Argentine peso's floating rate plummeted some 41 percent on its first day of trade on Friday.

The National Association of Manufacturers recently put political pressure on the Bush administration, asking to meet with US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill next week and saying the dollar's strength was hampering a US recovery.

Economists also said other factors were more important for a US economic rebound: that businesses aggressively cut costs and spending to fortify earnings and manufacturers cleared out their inventory glut.

The strong dollar could crimp US exports, Wiegand said. "But it's not going to make a difference in the overall pace of economic activity in 2002." *Reuters*

NZ may take apple access fight to WTO

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—New Zealand may take close trading partner Australia to the World Trade Organization if it fails in its latest bid to break an 80-year ban on its apples being exported to the neighboring country.

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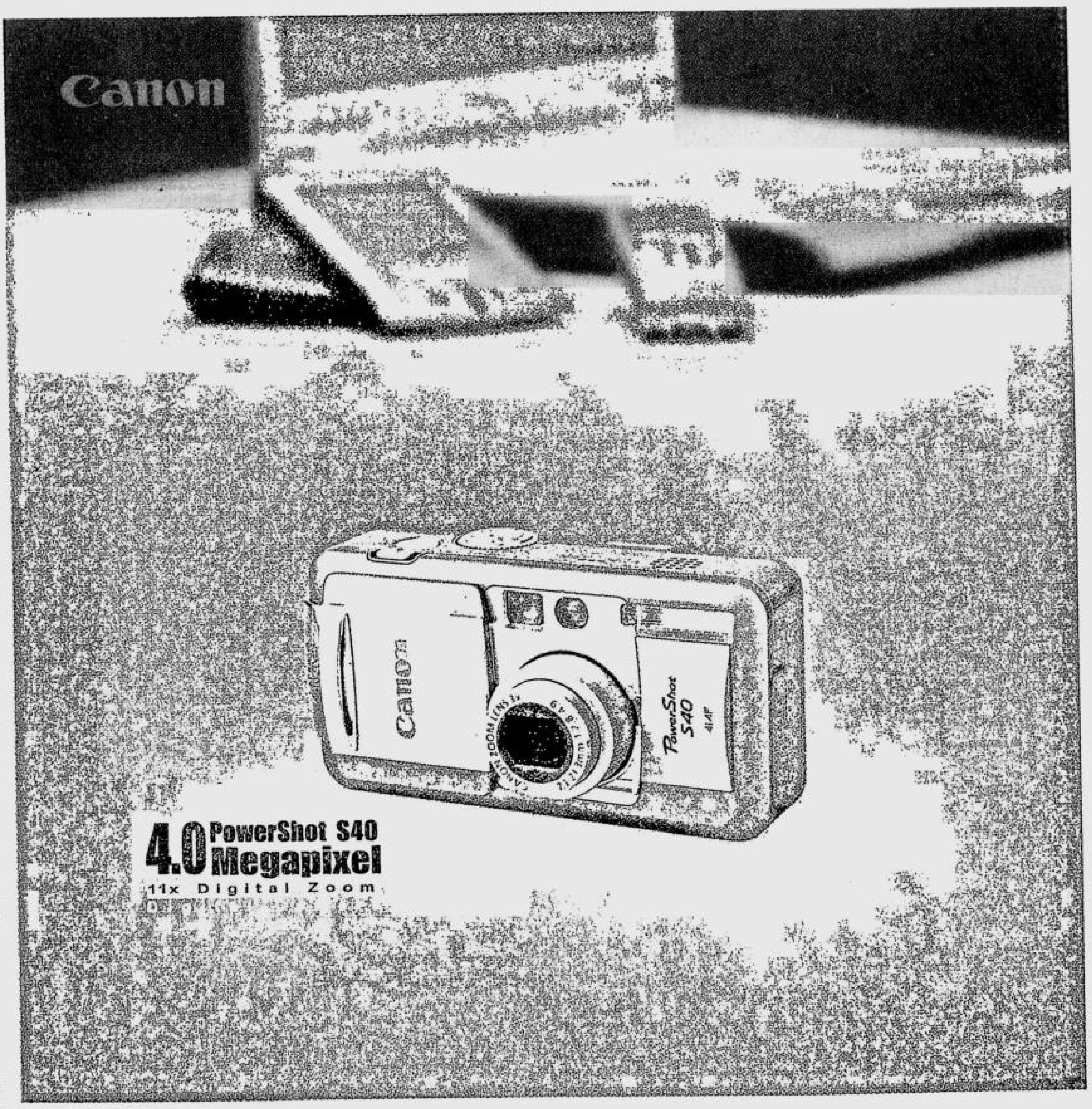

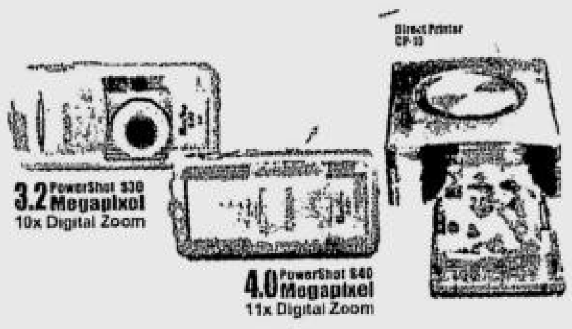

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Global corporate defaults hit record in 2001

NEW YORK—A record number of companies defaulted on their debts in 2001 around the world, and the number could be even greater this year, credit rating firm Standard and Poor's said Monday.

Corporate defaults exceeded 200 for the first time, with 211 firms defaulting on some $115.4 billion worth of debts last year, S&P said.

A total of 162 defaults took place in the United States last year, while Argentina had 15; Canada, nine; Britain, five; Australia, four; Poland, three; and Mexico, two. One default each took place in Bermuda, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, South Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand and Venezuela.

The previous record was set in 2000, when 132 issuers defaulted on $42.3 billion worth of debts.

S&P said 3.99 percent of all corporate bond issuers defaulted last year, near the record of 4.01 percent set in 1991, and far surpassing 2000's global default rate of 2.56 percent.

Additionally, among firms with poor "speculative grade" credit ratings, 8.57 percent defaulted during the year, the highest default rate since the level of 10.87 percent set in 1991.

S&P said the worst might not yet be over for companies defaulting on their debts.

"In a typical cycle, defaults peak six months after an economic bottom," said S&P analyst Diane Vazza.

"Standard and Poor's believes the US economy will bottom in the first quarter of this year and then improve gradually. We would expect to see continued high default rates, with defaults peaking at the beginning of the summer, when speculative-grade default rates could reach 11 percent, and then trailing off at year end."

The defaults were concentrated in the telecom sector, which accounted for 18.5 percent of all defaults. But S&P analyst Brooks Brady said "telecom defaults began to ease at the end of last year, with only six reported in the fourth quarter."

"In 2002, we expect defaults to be more broad-based than they were in 2001," said Vazza, "although we'll see some concentrated weakness in certain areas of consumer products and retail."

In Argentina, 10 banks defaulted due to government-imposed limits on bank account withdrawals.

"In 2002, the risk of additional defaults in Argentina will remain high as the economic turmoil runs its course," said Brady. *AFP*

US bankruptcies soar to a record

WASHINGTON—Amid a weakening US economy, the number of bankruptcies filed by US companies and individuals soared to a record in 2001, and experts said the worst might not be over yet.

A total of 251 publicly held US firms filed for bankruptcy in 2001, well above the prior record of 176 in 2000, according to figures compiled by BankruptcyData.com.

And the assets of the firms ahead of the bankruptcy filing was a whopping $254 billion, three times as high as any prior year, according to the figures. The biggest of those, of course, was Enron Corp., with some $63 billion in assets.

As for personal and small business bankruptcies, the total for the first three quarters of 2001 has topped 1.1 million and is widely expected to break the 1998 record of 1,442,549.

"We expect the yearly total to be over 1.5 million," said Samuel Gerdano, executive director of the American Bankruptcy Institute.

Gerdano said lawyers and others involved in bankruptcy cases "are extraordinarily busy. This is a boom that hasn't been seen for close to 20 years. And most people are projecting this will continue at least into 2002."

Although the softening economy and increasing number of job cuts has led to more bankruptcy filings, Gerdano said, a key underlying cause is the high levels of debt incurred by consumers during the booming 1990s.

"People were buying bigger homes, more gadgets . . . much of this was financed with plastic. At some point you have to pay the bill," he said.

Among business bankruptcies, aside from Enron, telecom and dotcom firms were among the more prominent companies seeking bankruptcy protection, analysts said.

"We've seen certain industries just get decimated over the past 24 months, including the telecom and technology sectors," Michael Baxter, a Washington lawyer specializing in bankruptcy cases, said.

Baxter said unlike traditional companies filing for bankruptcy, dotcom and telecom firms had few "hard" assets like factories and inventory to sell to pay creditors.

"The telecom companies largely did not make any money. They projected to make money over time," Baxter said.

"But their assets were very sensitive to technological change and became obsolete quickly. Some of these firms sold for a penny on the dollar." *AFP*

HP, Compaq to pay workers after merger

SAN JOSE, California—Hewlett-Packard Co. and Compaq Computer Corp. will shell out $634 million in bonuses to key employees as an incentive to stay on if their merger goes through, both companies disclosed.

Hewlett-Packard would pay $33.1 million to 10 top executives and $337 million to about 6,000 selected employees over two years, according to an updated merger prospectus filed Monday with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Compaq would pay $22.4 million to seven top executives and $242 million to an undisclosed number of employees over two years, the filing said. Compaq also would donate $12 million to charity in the names of its outside directors.

The companies disclosed in their original prospectus on Nov. 15 that HP chief executive Carly Fiorina turned down a merger-related bonus package that would have been worth $8 million, and that Compaq CEO Michael Capellas forfeited a $14.4-million plan.

Both companies said the CEOs wanted to avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest as they urged on the deal's completion.

The retention bonuses are designed to keep important employees around during the difficult integration of the massive technology companies. HP has 86,000 workers; Compaq has 66,500. At least 15,000 layoffs are expected if the deal does take place.

HP's bonus plan was crafted by board members Sam Ginn, Phil Condit and Walter Hewlett, the cofounder's son who originally voted for the deal and is now encouraging shareholders to torpedo it.

Compaq's retention package was developed by directors Lawrence Babbio, Judith Craven and Kenneth Lay, the head of shattered Enron Corp. Lay resigned from Compaq's board last month. *AP*

Nortel's position better than rivals'

TORONTO—Some analysts believe Nortel Networks, which announces its fourth quarter and yearend results Thursday, may fare somewhat better than its rivals in 2002 after a year of painful restructuring that has seen its workforce nearly halved.

Nortel said in late December it expected a pro forma net loss of approximately 16 US cents per share from continuing operations on revenues of $3.4 billion in the fourth quarter.

That compares to a fourth-quarter profit in 2000 of 26 cents from revenues of $8.8 billion.

Twenty-nine analysts polled by Thomson Financial/First Call expect Nortel to post a fourth-quarter loss of 17 cents a share.

Although the company's numbers for the fourth quarter fall below analysts' projections, some say Nortel's early restructuring puts it in a better position than its rivals in what is likely to be another year of little telecom carrier spending.

"Nortel took a lot of grief early on in 2001 for the amount of people it was letting go and the percentage of the workforce it was letting go, but on reflection, it turns out everybody seemed to be doing a very similar amount of restructuring," John Wilson, managing director at RBC Capital Markets, said. *AFP*

Singapore stocks seen languishing

SINGAPORE—Singapore stocks are expected to under-perform this year compared to regional peers as the city-state goes through its worst downturn in more than 30 years, Anglo-Dutch bank ING Barings said Tuesday.

Christopher Gee, the bank's head of research for Singapore and Malaysia, said the island's key Straits Times stock index would end the year at 1,500 points. It ended Monday at 1,731.52 points.

"The key reason is the economy will be pretty weak," Gee told reporters.

Dealers had said optimism of a quick recovery in the economy this year led to a run-up in the stock market but warned this optimism could run out of steam if grim economic figures reemerged.

According to ING Barings, Singapore's gross domestic product is projected to grow one percent this year, which is within the government's forecast of between minus 2 percent and plus 2 percent.

Its GDP shrank 2.2 percent in 2001 after a 9.9-percent expansion in the previous year.

While the economy was projected to improve from last year's contraction, Gee said there would be more pain, mainly in the form of job losses, as the government pushed ahead with its much-publicized restructuring agenda.

Job losses totaled 25,000 last year, lifting the unemployment rate to 4.5 percent from 3.1 percent in 2000, and the government warned another 15,000 jobs could be lost this year. *AFP*

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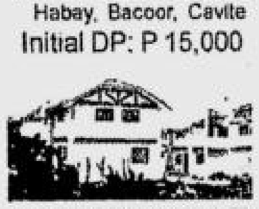

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **WILLIAM NAQUITA y DUABE**, whose picture appears above, of Esmeralda Street, San Andres, Manila and Estina Extension, Surigao City, is the subject of a **WARRANT OF ARREST** issued by the Presiding Judge of Branch No. 17. MTC of Manila, in connection with the case of Falsification of Public Documents docketed as Criminal Case No. 337648 CR. A **REWARD** awaits anyone who can provide vital information leading to the arrest of the subject person, which information may be communicated to tel. no. (02) 890-3461 local 34. Any information will be treated with utmost confidentiality and privacy.

(PDI - Jan. 16, 2002)

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Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
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Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Or to the
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C/O MANUEL V. DEAZETA
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COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

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Bid documents will be issued to pre-qualified bidders at the Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Tacloban City, starting **January 11, 2002.**

Sealed bids will be received by the Committee on Awards until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, **January 23, 2002** at the Briefing Room, 2nd Floor, Provincial Capitol Tacloban City. Public opening of bids will immediately follow. Bids submitted late will not be accepted.

The Province of Leyte reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, and to accept only the bid most advantageous to the provincial government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CATALINO B. PETILLA**
Acting Chairman

(PDI - Jan. 14, 16 & 18, 2002)

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Our Beloved Daddy

LORENZO PAGUIRIGAN CLARAVÁLL

of Ilagan, Isabela and Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Lord on the 14th day of January 2002 at the age of 86.

His bereaved wife, **Dahlia**; children: **Emmanuel** and **Editha**, **Luis** and **Mary**, **Marilinda** and **Paul** (†), **Roberto** and **Aurea**, **Nila** and **Ricardo**, **Adrian** and **Cherry**, **Gerardo** and **Monette**, **Maribel** and **Mario**, **Carolyn** and **Peter**, **Eric** and **Gidget**; sister, **Sister Isabel, ICM**; grandchildren **Bambi, Katkat, Muffette, Stephanie, CJ, Dahlia, Amon, An-an, Lala, Paolo, Mike, Jaja, Sophie, RJ, Hermann, Victoria, Francchi, Sasha, Isabel, Migo, Tara, Giro, Lollie, Nicola, Lawrence, Julian, Christopher, Anjo, Bernadette.**

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Chapel, Nathan Road, White Plains Subdivision, Quezon City.

Daily Mass will be offered at 8:00 p.m. up to Thursday, January 17, 2002.

Interment will be on Friday, January 18, 2002 at the Garden of Reflection I, Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Ret. Col. BIENAVENTURADO P. DE LA CRUZ, MC (GSC)

of Mabalacat, Pampanga and Grace Park, Caloocan City

Passed away on January 13, 2002 in New Jersey, U.S.A. at the age of 88.

He is survived by his sons **Serafin Bienaventurado Jr., Moises Emmanuel, Regino Rodegelio, Guillermo Bernardito, Marcelino Antonio, Deogracias Aureo, Leon Nilo,** and **Cesario Angelo** and their wives **Sonia, Karen, Myn, Alma, Mila, Hazel, Juliet** and **Marina**; his grandchildren and great grandchildren; and his wife **Florita Dorin.**

His remains will be flown from New Jersey on January 17 and will lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 22, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. His body shall be brought to its final resting place at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

"My soul finds rest in God alone; from Him comes my salvation."
Psalm 62:2

Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

BENJAMIN S. BENITEZ

Of Pagsanjan, Laguna

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 14, 2002 at the age of 70.

His loving wife **AMOR**; loving children and in-laws **DAISY & NOEL, TINTIN & SUNNY**; grandchildren **PAULA, BEA, BENJO, PIO, SOPHIA, MICA & ICOY**; sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the OUR LADY OF BEAUTIFUL LOVE PARISH CHURCH, Washington Street, Merville Park Subdivision, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 17, 2002 after the 8:00 AM Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Our Dearly Beloved

CONRADO R. RICAFORTE, SR.

Of Banga, Aklan

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 9, 2002 at the age of 85.

His loving children and their spouses **Romeo & Eraida** (†), **Amelia & Jess, Elizabeth & Carlito, Conrado Jr. & Everlita, Epifania & Cardeño, Noel & Diana, Joselyn & Alberto, Virgie, Jane & Cito**; his grandchildren and their spouses, his great grandchildren, and relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish, Washington Street, Merville Subdivision, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on January 19, 2002 at 10:00 a.m., Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

JOSEFINA PIANG EDUARTE, M.D.

Joined her Creator on January 15, 2002 at the age of 46.

Her bereaved parents **Lt. Col. JOSE M. EDUARTE (Ret.) & MRS. REBECCA EDUARTE**; her brother and sister-in-law **GERARDO & CHRISTY**; nephews and nieces **TERENCE, GENEVA & JAYJAY**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Tanglaw University Center, #54 Examiner Street, West Triangle, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 17, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, immediately after the 2:00 PM Mass at the Two Hearts Parish, West Triangle, Quezon City.

In lieu of flowers please send your donation to Kalinangan Youth Foundation, Inc.

"God is not a hunter who awaits His prey's slightest slip in order to fire a shot. Rather, he is like a gardener who takes good care of his flowers and waters them; and only cuts them when they're at their best, in full bloom. God takes souls to Himself when they are ripe."

Blessed JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA

DOMINGO C. LOPEZ

of Bantan, Orion, Bataan and
GSIS Hills Subd., Talipapa, Novaliches, Kaloocan City

Our beloved ***Mang Dom****, peacefully joined his Creator on January 14, 2002 at the age of 78.*

His bereaved wife **Naty**; his children **Vicky**, **Raffy** and **Penny**, **Charry** and **Bobby**, **Rak** (†); grandchildren **Ada, Miko, Jopet, Jessica** and **Jam-Jam**; brothers and sisters; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at 28 Road 5, GSIS Hills, Talipapa, Novaliches, Kaloocan City.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 20, 2002 at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

EPIFANIA DALISAY CRUZ PACHECO

of Tondo, Manila
A retired teacher of Arellano High School
Teodora Alonzo, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Went to her reward on January 13, 2002
Her remains lie in state at Miraculous Medal Parish at Camerino Street, Project 4, Quezon City.
Interment will be on Wednesday, January 16, 2002 at Manila North Cemetery after the 2:00 PM Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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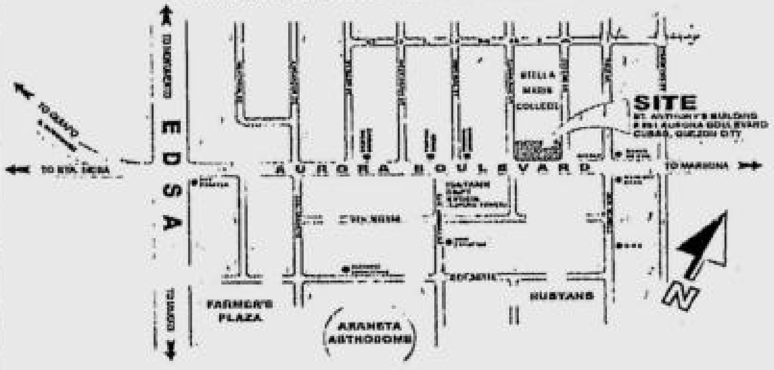

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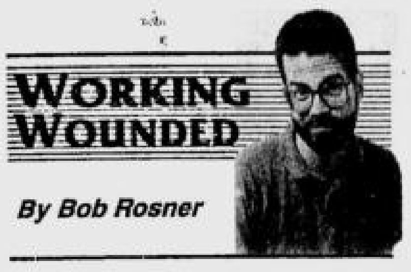
PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

How do you survive the cubicle lifestyle?

DEAR WW: Our company just moved into a new building that doesn't have any private offices. I'm having a hard time adjusting to the total lack of privacy. Any tips?
Prisoner 24601


WORKING WOUNDED
By Bob Rosner

Your letter reminds me of a conversation between my two friends, Mark and Jim. Mark was telling Jim about a great date he'd recently gone on. But as he listened, Jim had a sense of déjà vu. The details sounded, well, familiar. Finally he realized it was because the events Mark was describing had actually happened to him. Mark had stolen his story! Jim said, "Wait a minute, that happened to me, not to you!" To which Mark responded, "Oh, I wondered who I'd heard it from."

Nothing better describes the cubicle lifestyle. It's often difficult to separate your stories from those of your colleagues. For strategies on how to cope when the walls literally have ears, I turned to "Business Etiquette" by Ann Marie Sabath (Career Press, 1998). Maybe it's just because I grew up in etiquette-challenged New Jersey, but I found this small volume full of great advice for navigating almost any professional situation. I've adapted the following tips from it.

- Wait to be invited into someone's cube. I'm as guilty as anyone of barging into people's cubicles. Sabath recommends that you imagine an invisible door at the opening of a cube and wait to be invited in. Respect people's cubes just as you would their offices.
- Avoid the speakerphone. What's more annoying than having to sit through someone else's phone conversation? Or having to listen to someone else's on-hold music! Keep your business to yourself by keeping your hands off that delightful hands-free feature.
- Be aware of how your voice carries. Recently, I walked into the local library to ask the librarian a question. As I began to speak, I noticed that every person in the library had turned to look at me. And based on the e-mail I get from cube-dwellers, I'm not the only person with a broken volume button. Practice your "library voice" and use it in your cube.
- Avoid discussing confidential matters in your cube. The last thing you want is to get engrossed in a personal conversation and then see your neighbor's head peering over the wall. So it's wise to schedule sensitive conversations elsewhere (a conference room, outside, at a restaurant on the other side of town, etc.).
- Remind yourself that, like it or not, you live in a fishbowl. It's not just your neighbors who can see and hear you; you're open season for all the people walking down the hall. And they won't hesitate to judge you—or your working style. So straighten up that desk and get to work! When you live in a cube, you're never off-duty.

Unfortunately, things are only going to get worse before they get better: Cubicles are shrinking in most companies, which means office life is only getting cozier. My recommendation: try to get a cube next to someone who has lots of great stories. You'll never know when you'll want to borrow one.

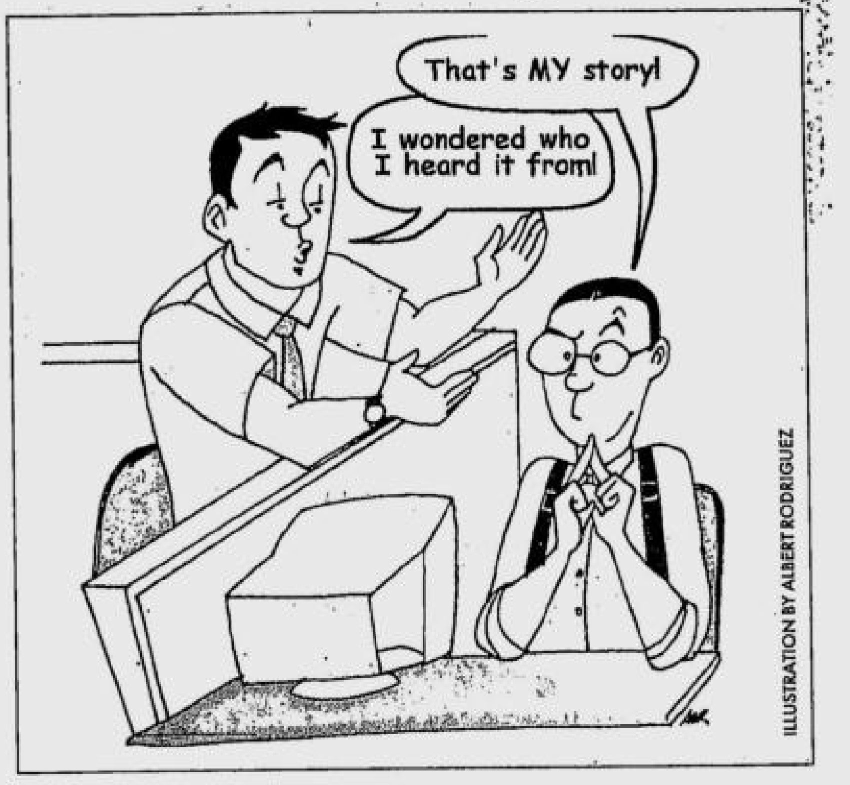
Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: Which Broadway show best expresses your feelings about working in a cubicle?

—Camelot, 5.6 percent
—Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk, 28.3 percent
—Les Miserables, 66 percent

Our winning strategy for surviving a cubicle comes from Sharon O. in Flushing, N.Y. "The most disconcerting thing about having a 'cubby' was that others could view my work and listen to my phone calls uninvited, unannounced and most of the time unwanted. I solved the problem with an old trick I learned from a drug store I worked in as a kid. I placed a mirror on top of my desk so I can now catch those privacy thieves. It may not seem significant at first glance (no pun intended), but once you dial up your ob-gyn with one of those personal problems and you don't have to keep twisting about to see if anyone has entered your zone—you'll appreciate this helpful hint."

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com*)*

Bob Rosner is an internationally renowned author, syndicated columnist, trainer, management consultant and webmaster.


That's MY story!
I wondered who I heard it from!
ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

'My boss likes to touch women'

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO

I AM an employee in a private company. My present boss has a fetish for touching his women employees. He touches our arms, legs and faces, albeit in a friendly way, whenever he greets us. Since he's old, most of my women officemates would just shrug off his advances. But I could sense that they do not like it but are afraid to confront him. They complain behind his back.

I know my rights as a woman. I know that what he's doing is not only unprofessional but also unfair to his women employees. I value the respect for the dignity of women, especially in the workplace. So one time after he touched me, I went straight to his office, along with an officemate and told him that we do not feel comfortable when he touches us unnecessarily and that perhaps he'd be kind enough to stop it. He was shocked but complimented us for our openness and honesty. He said that since he has been like that for years, the three of us could make some adjustments. We left his office relieved. The next day, he fired the probationary employee who complained with me.

I realized that he is harboring ill feelings toward me in spite of what we have talked about. He makes me feel that he doesn't want me around by acting as if I don't exist and not greeting me at all while he greets all other employees. He doesn't want me to come to work even when my presence is needed. Now I feel that he's just waiting for me to commit a big mistake and I'm out. I feel like walking on eggshells around him.

I am now looking for another job but I like my work here. My only problem is my boss. Besides, I want to gain more skills before moving on to other bigger companies. What should I do now? Was my complaint a bad move?
Lioness

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

Congratulations for having the courage to do the right thing! Your officemates are citing the age of your boss as an excuse for his behavior. This is not valid. Being old is not an excuse for touching women in a manner that makes them uncomfortable. We associate age with wisdom. It is a golden opportunity for using experience to help others. Ideally, it is a time when one is able to appreciate the difference between right and wrong. It is not the age for taking advantage of younger women who are your subordinates or staff.

Anti-sexual harassment law

Considering that you would want to retain your job, what are you to do? First, build awareness among the women in your group on what the law says about sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is a crime. Republic Act No. 7877 declares sexual harassment unlawful in the employment, education or training environment and for other purposes. The declaration of policy reads that the "State shall value the dignity of every individual, enhance the development of human resources, guarantee full respect for human rights and uphold the dignity of workers, employees, applicants for employment..."

The Department of Labor and Employment has an advisory informing all employers or heads of offices of the passage of Republic Act No.7877 also known as the "Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995." It took effect on Mar. 5,1995. Under this Act, it is the duty of your employer to provide the procedures for the resolution, settlement or prosecution of acts of sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It also notes that this occurs when submission to such conduct is made a condition for an individual's employment. Or that submission or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting the individual. Or such conduct has the purpose of effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. Forms of sexual harassment include the following but not limited to: verbal harassment such as derogatory comments, jokes or slurs; physical harassment such as unnecessary or offensive touching or impeding or blocking movements and visual harassment such as derogatory or offensive posters, cards, calendars, cartoons, graffiti, drawings or gestures.

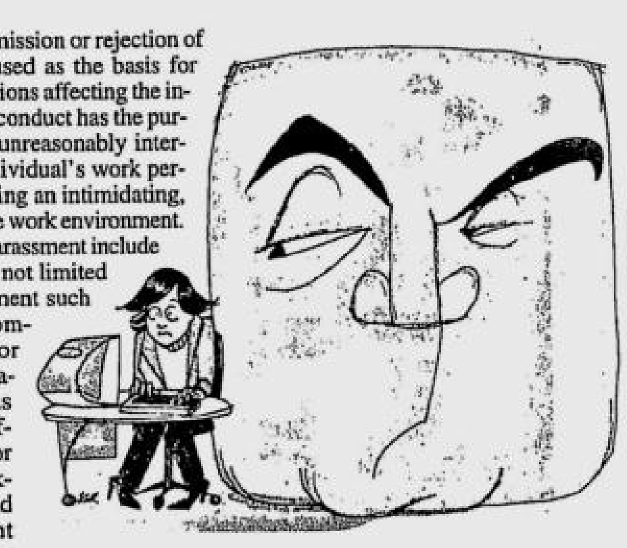


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Internal procedures

Based on the foregoing statements, it is clear that you may have a basis for filing a complaint. Ideally, you should report this to your supervisor. But since he is the person in question, you should report his behavior immediately to the next higher level supervisor. If your complaint is not addressed at that level, you can go to your Human Resource manager. The Human Resource manager can refer your complaint to a committee on decorum and investigation of sexual harassment cases that your employer is duty bound to create.

Try to find out if your company has a sexual harassment resolution process, so you are guided accordingly. Most companies may require that the complaint be done in writing, signed and sworn to by the complainant. It must contain specifics of the charge and a brief statement of relevant and material facts.

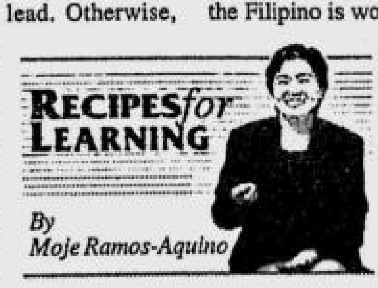
Be mentally, physically and emotionally prepared to go through a process. You may want to have people around you who can provide you support during the period so that you don't feel vulnerable or intimidated.

For you to be prepared, we are outlining some of the steps the complainant may have to go through. First, file a written complaint. Then, the company may decide to determine the need for preventive suspension of the offender if there is substantial ground for the complaint. Then, the respondent receives and responds to the complaint. Afterwards, you as the complainant files a reply to the respondent. A hearing with both parties is then scheduled and a report or recommendation is submitted to the committee. A decision is executed or a motion for reconsideration is filed.

We hope that you muster the courage to go for your rights. This heroic act will not only protect you but will deter similar behavior from other people in the company in the future. There is of course the easy way out which is simply resigning and applying with another company. But as you said, you want the job because it is helping you gain new competencies. We will be praying for you to have the courage to go against the current. Also for your boss, so that he converts and reforms his ways.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

Where have all the leaders gone?


RECIPES for LEARNING
By Moje Ramos-Aquino

CONTRARY to what you may believe, the world is never at a standstill. Everything is in motion. Everything is changing in shape, form, style, color, content, process, course, purpose, direction, value, interaction, etc.

In the world, there are pockets of armed struggles going on in Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Israel, Iran, Argentina, here in the Philippines and other countries. These are definitely life-changing experience for both victors and victims, individuals, communities and countries.

In business, the collapse, merger and acquisition of companies or entire industries, deregulation, rapid technological changes, globalization, stock market volatility, new marketing plans, the success of the Euro and others are keeping industry chieftains awake 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Likewise, changes in lifestyle, demographics, new diseases, famine or depression, and new and sophisticated needs of people all over are keeping business, church, academic and political leaders on their toes to continuously sustain interests and faith.

Here in our country, there is the persistent threat of a coup d'etat and Edsa 4, uneasy peace and order situation, systemic flaws in our justice system that favors the moneyed and those in positions of influence, the graft-ridden political system, the strong influence of and preference for western culture, our disregard and disrespect for tradition, history and roots, growing unemployment rate and many more.

Don't you sometimes feel helpless, inadequate, misdirected and want to leave and hide somewhere?

Given these people, events and results, who do you call? What do you do?

Warren Bennis wrote in his book, "On Becoming a Leader," "One person can live on a desert island without leadership. Two people, if they're totally compatible, could get along and even progress. If there are three or more, someone has to take the lead. Otherwise, chaos erupts." And chaos is what we have now.

Bennis relates that, "In November 1987, Time (Magazine) asked in a cover story, 'Who's in Charge?' And answered its own question, saying, 'The nation calls for leadership, and there is no one home.'"

Fallen leaders

This observation might as well apply to our country nowadays. Bennis continues, "Where have all the leaders gone? They are like the flowers of the haunting folk song, 'long time passing.' All the leaders we once respected are dead. FDR, who challenged a nation to rise above fear, is gone. Chrurchill, who demanded and got blood, sweat and tears, is gone. Schweitzer, who inspired mankind with a reverence for life from the jungles of Lambarene, is gone. Einstein, who gave us a sense of unity in infinity, of cosmic harmony, is gone. Gandhi, the Kennedys, Martin Luther King, Jr.—all were slain, almost in testimony to the mortal risk in telling us that we can be greater, better than we are. The stage is littered with fallen leaders.

"Where have all the leaders gone? Leaders today sometimes appear to be an endangered species, caught in the whirl of events and circumstances beyond rational control."

Where have all our very own leaders gone? Ninoy Aquino, who believed that the Filipino is worth dying for, is gone. Dadong Macapagal, who is an advocate of everything Filipino, is gone. Chino Roces, who used media to stir nationalism and fought for freedom of the press, is gone. Diokno and Rodrigo, who led in politics with their integrity intact, are gone.

Search for leaders

What has become of our leaders in government, academe, church, community and business? For sure, there are still a number of intrepid souls managing our meager resources and leading our people quietly, albeit unheralded.

We read the newspapers daily and what do we read about? "Leaders" mired in corruption, graft, malpractices, business shenanigans, abuse of power, scams, personal aggrandizement and other such activities that serve their personal ambitions. Leaders who are described as risk-takers, forward-looking, corporate geniuses, politically savvy, etc., but never described as honest, sincere and with integrity.

Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. is a breath of fresh air in our polluted political culture. The senators who stood for our national good during the Erap Senate Hearings no sooner than the issue died down have shown their true colors.

Identify leaders

Who are our remaining leaders today who could lead our people to moral, political, economic and spiritual recovery? If you know someone, please write this column and give me the name.

As we continue to discuss our Recipe for Leadership, I invite you to actively participate. We are all leaders in our own way, our own sphere. Firstly, we are leaders of ourselves. That guy stranded in a desert island will not survive such circumstances if he does not lead himself. Survivor Africa winner, Ethan, a soccer player with no formal leadership role or title, led himself outstandingly and won the coveted US$1M. Lex, Silas, Kelly and Big Tom tried to lead with cunning and scheming and were booted out. Tina of Survivor Australia was an unlikely winner but with subtle leadership, she emerged as the number one survivor.

We asked a few questions in the last column. Please participate by sending us your answers. The questions are: How do you describe the political, business, spiritual, social and academic environment and culture we are in today? How do you describe the leader who can lead us in this chaotic order? Can you name a few leaders, dead or alive, you admire and whose example you want to emulate? Please write "Leaders" in the subject box of your e-mail.

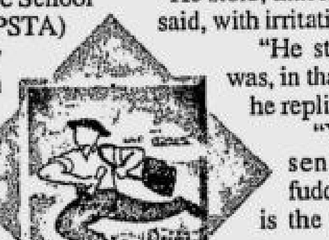
(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com*)*

Elementary lessons on leadership

BY RICARDO JAIME VASQUEZ CASTRO, JR.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

I LEARNED my lessons on leadership from my father, Ricardo Pangilinan Castro, who passed away at the age of 95 in April 1992. As a student, he walked several kilometers to school daily, suffered the travails of the ever-hungry student, and finished his course at the University of the Philippines. He went to Grinnel College in Iowa, USA as a government *pensionado* and went through the pains of moving up the steep ladder of the public schools bureaucracy until he retired as a Division Superintendent of Schools. He founded and was elected the first president of the League of Philippine Public School Teachers Associations (LPPSTA) in 1931 and the Secondary School Press Association in 1932. The LPPSTA became the forerunner of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association (PPSTA).


POSTCARDS FROM THE CORPORATE EDGE

My father first taught me about leadership when I was in grade seven. My class chose me as class president. There was no opposition. When I arrived home, the first thing I did was to ask my father what it meant to be class president.

His answer was simple: "It means that you are the leader of the class."

I asked him: "What is a leader?"

He answered by asking a series of questions.

"When your older brother took your hand on the way to church last Sunday, what was he doing?"

"He was making sure that I went the right way," I answered.

"In that way, he was a leader," he said.

"When your sister slapped your hand when you tried to grab the chicken legs at dinner last night, what was she doing?" he asked.

"She was punishing me for grabbing and not asking," I replied.

"In that way, she was a leader," he said.

"When I gave you candy the other day and told you it was for your good grades, what was I doing?" he asked.

"You were rewarding me for good work," I answered.

"In that way, I was a leader," he said.

"Do you remember your classmate who was caught stealing along with some of your other classmates? What was he doing?" he asked.

"He stole, that is what he did!" I said, with irritation.

"He stole, yes, but he was, in that way, a leader," he replied.

"You see," he said, sensing my befuddlement, "a leader is the one who shows the way for others to follow; he is the one who punishes those who do wrong; he is the one who rewards those who do well; but he is also a leader who influences others to do wrong things."

"There are good leaders and there are bad leaders. In history, you will see a mixture of these leaders. But only history can pass judgment on them. There may be leaders who are judged by many to be bad leaders, but history may judge them as good because the good they did was far greater than what they did wrong. And vice versa."

"When you become a leader, be sure that you recognize your role as the head of the group. Without the head, the rest of the body will have no direction. You will have to supply the thinking, the directing, the analysis, the judgment, the punishing, the rewarding, and basically the holding by the hand to make sure that they do not lose their way. Do all these with the good of everyone in mind and you will not make a mistake."

(Ricardo Jaime Vasquez Castro, Jr. is a management consultant and is professionally known as "RJC" and as "Jim" by his friends. A United Nations scholar, Jim is a graduate of Purdue University, W. Lafayette, Indiana, USA.)

(Send contributions to Postcards to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

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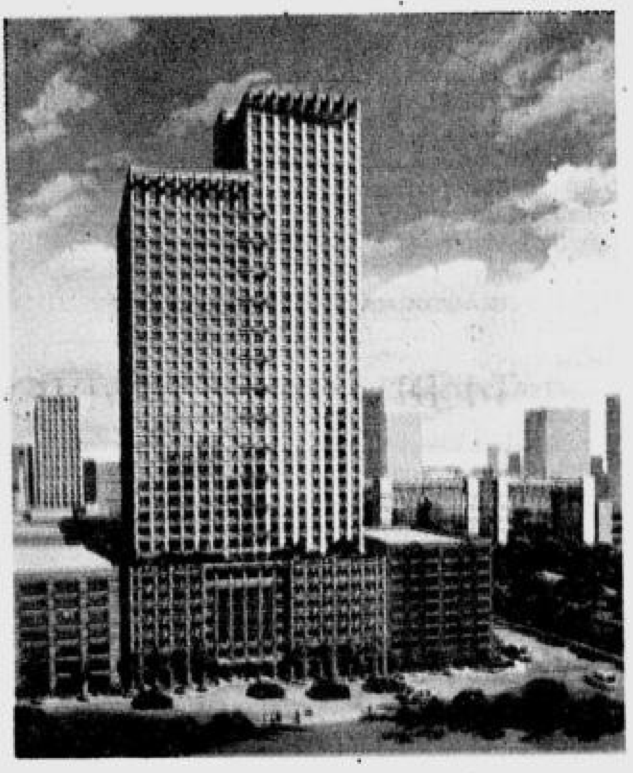
AT THE CENTER OF POWER



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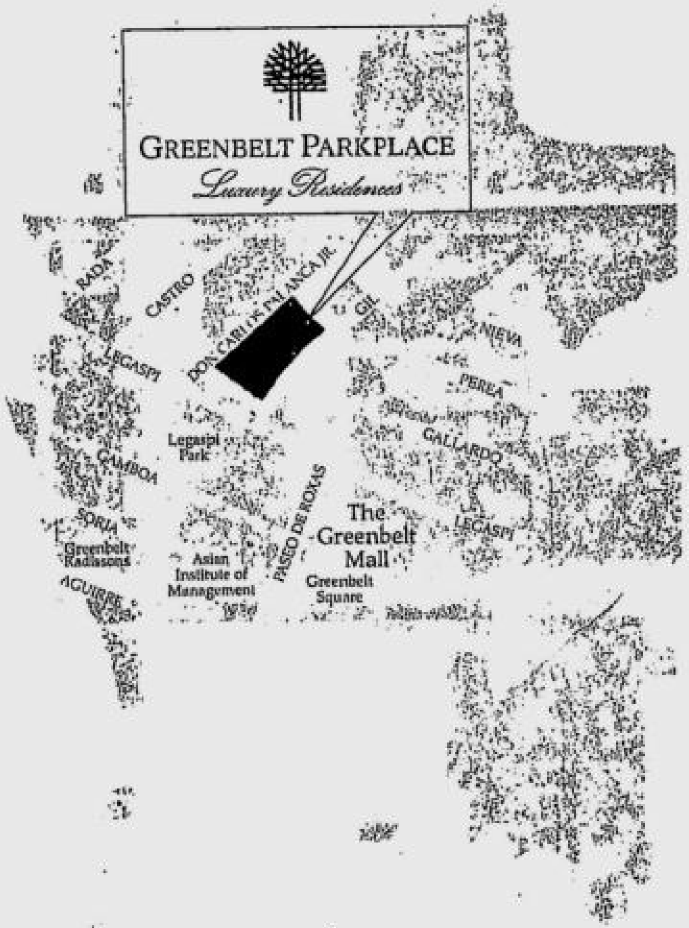
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CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor
PAM PASTOR, Chief of Correspondents

Honey, Nasa Singit Na Ba Ako?

'BONGGA KA 'DAY!'

'Colegialas' and the hoity-toity look down on it—but 'baduy' is so irresistibly Pinoy. It is so irresistible that you would not have enough of it this issue featuring pop icon Jolina Magdangal, the 'Attagirl' bombshells, former members of 'Best Frends' (that's the second generation of 'That's Entertainment'), Tagalog flicks, Tagalog romances . . . 'Sige lang! Itaas ang kilay!'

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Breaking the barriers of

"PRIMA donna, first lady of the stage..." Jolina wears a canary yellow gown, which designer Rajo Laurel made for Tessa to wear at Ayala's "Witches and Wizards Halloween Ball" last year.

Tim Yap

THIS week, we deviate from our usual offering of bacchanalian beats and look into the wonderful world of a Pinoy pop phenomenon.

Jolina Magdangal is best known for her colorful and campy sense of style as we all have witnessed on the boob tube. **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** is popular for her over-the-top fashion ensembles when she attends events around town.

In a television interview with **Boy Abunda**, Tessa talked about how we Pinoys judge people who dress different. "If you're poor, you are called *luka-luka*. If you are rich, you are labeled eccentric." Words of wisdom, indeed. Let me add to that—"And if you are an *artista*, you are tagged as *baduy*."

Of late, show biz and high society have been so interlinked, no matter how we've tried to avoid it. Who doesn't channel-surf between "The Buzz" and "S-Files" at home on Sundays? And now with game shows, the audience ranges the whole pie from A to Z. As society style icon **Tingting Cojuangco** said on her Cinema One plug, "Look who's watching!"

Tessa styles Jolina

So what is the thin line between being stylish and tacky? Does one's status in life affect how people categorize a celebrity's style status? "I don't really care what people think—I'm past that stage," Tessa would always say. Jolina throws all caution to the wind, winks, and in one word, says, "*Keber*!"

Baduy, when used as a sense of style genre, is indeed relative. What is tasteless to one may be über chic to another, and vice versa. And in this era when "in and out" is so predictably out, the finger-pointers have nowhere to look but at themselves when the word "fashion victim" pops up.

The idea for this shoot has been on my mind for quite some time, which I broached to Tessa over yoga class one night. Tessa styles Jolina—from one icon to another, bridging the borders of styles society and show biz, both into shock value, with different audiences and diverse markets.

Aside from a previous television guesting on **Sharon Cuneta**'s talk show, they have not really bonded. When I got into the shoot that afternoon, Tessa was putting a tiara on Jolina's head. "You are now the fairy prom queen!" Tessa announces as she waves her fairy godmother styling wand.

Darna now!

All the clothes (big ones, tons of accessories, feather boas, wigs—you know, Tessa stuff) were neatly laid out on the Valdes opium bed. **Leica Carpo** was keeping Jolina company as they swapped beauty secrets. They clicked instantly right after Leica asked her to sign the box of the Jolina doll (which sings a Tagalog song when you press its

BREAKING/p.C3

REEL ROYALTY. Jolina, glitz biz princess, dons her feather boa and tiara to a T. White Josie Natori top paired with a Patrice Ramos-Diaz ball gown, all from Tessa's closet

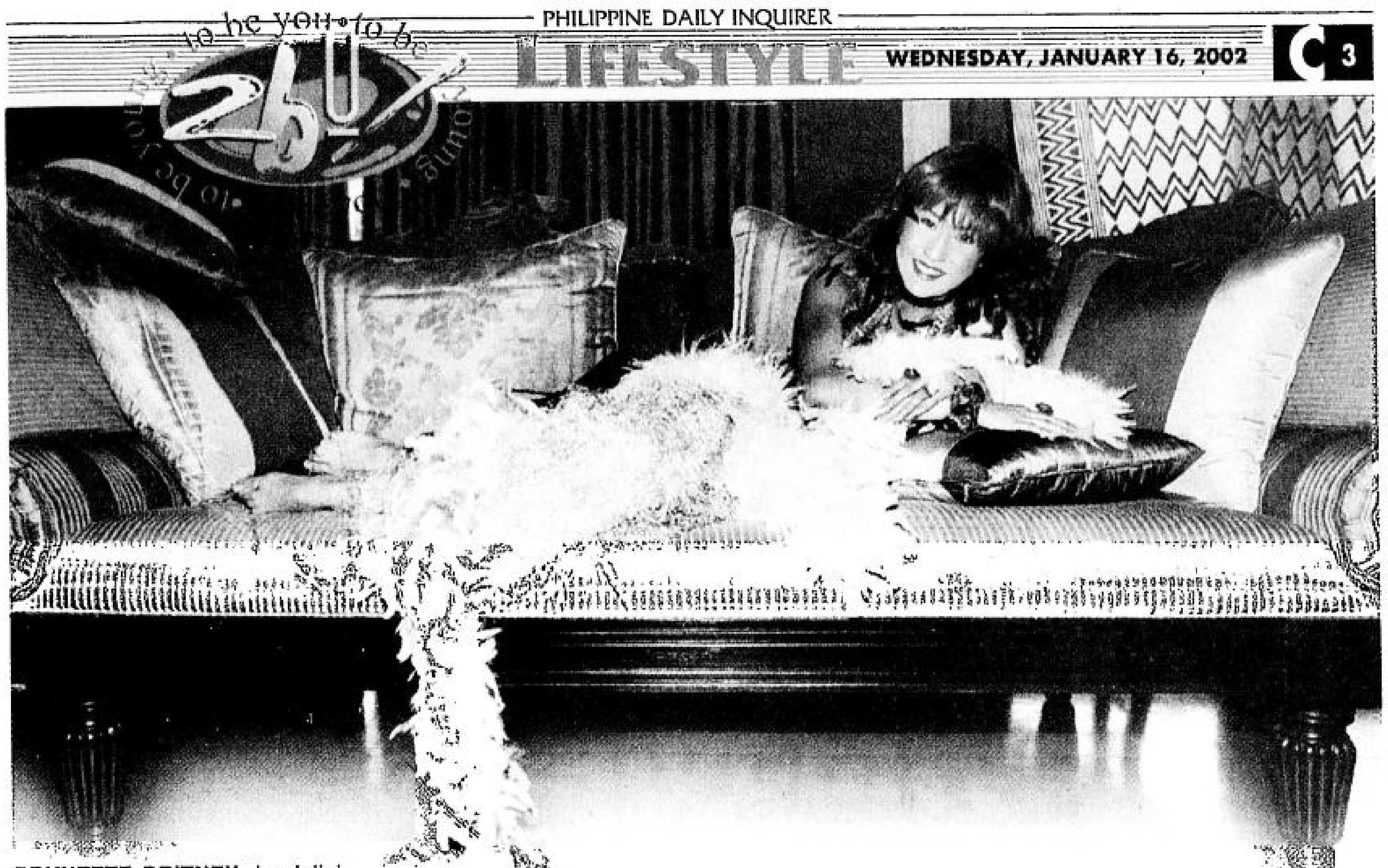
ARRIBA, ARRIBA! Jolina Magdangal wears ostrich feather top from Mix, metallic silver pants by Mimi and Juliet Tan of DAACS, embellished boots by Patrice Ramos-Diaz. Furry watch by Swatch and Hello Kitty toy from Gift Gate

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO

STYLING BY TESSA PRIETO-VALDES AND TIM YAP

MAKEUP BY BERNADETTE DUENAS

LOCATION: VALDES RESIDENCE



BRUNETTE BRITNEY. La Jolini goes new-age Cleopatra meets pop princess meets Tessa Prieto-Valdes on a night out.

Being *Jolina* and loving it

By Jules Alcantara
2bU! Correspondent

She has become a pop icon for her outlandish fashion, but she wants to be taken seriously

JOLINA. She needs no introductions, obviously.

Whether you hate her or love her, the truth remains that she has found a niche in Philippine pop culture. And whether you adore her fashion sense or cringe at the sight of her in her outlandish outfits, you cannot help but admire her guts, her originality and, most especially, her audacity at going against the trend.

How was it doing a pictorial with main partyphile Tim Yap and *the* fashion icon Tessa Prieto-Valdes?

Ang saya-saya ko, sobra! I had always looked forward to working with Tim so *nung tinawagan nila kami* regarding the pictorial, *talagang go ako dyan*. I really, really enjoyed working with Tim and Tessa! *Ako talaga nag*-enjoy! *Kung puwede nga lang lumabas kami* after, *eh, kaya lang meron kaming kanya-kanyang* appointment.

Recently, people have been saying that you have become a little tamer in terms of your fashion sense.

Hindi naman. (Smiles) *Siguro* in a way *kasi nadagdag ang edad ko*. Plus *dun sa mga* movies *ko* recently, *hindi kinailangan na maging* fashionable *ako*. But on "Asap," as much as possible I have to be fashionable since that's what people are looking for. *Palagay ko nagma*-mature *na rin siguro ang* taste *ko*. I also want to show people that I don't have to be stuck with that image. I think it's better if they see that I am evolving and constantly reinventing myself *naman. Kumbaga meron pa ring* touch *nung dati* and *merong na ring* touch *nung*, "I'm 23 years old!"

Does it bother you that some people tag you as *baduy*?

(Emphatic) *Hindi*! *Sabi nga ni* Tim, *wag ko daw sila pansinin*. And you know, *kahit siguro di niya sabihin sa akin yun, talagang di ko talaga din naman pinapansin. Kasi 'yung mga nagsasabi sa akin na baduy, iniisip ko baka di lang nila naiintindihan. Sabihin man nila na baduy ako, ibig sabihin pinapanood nila ako. Napapansin nila ako.*

I have always thought, and I'm sure a lot of people are aware of this, that it was an intentional strategy to market you as different, as someone unique or as someone who is very *masang-masa*.

Kasi siguro ang nangyari noon yung daddy *ko parang ginawa niya akong produkto. Eh, yun yung* No. 1 *na ginawa niya nung mag*-San Miguel *siya, mag*-Coca-Cola *siya. Kaya* in a way, *kahit sabihin ng ibang tao na dahil sa* daddy *ko masisira ako*, I really believe *na* this won't happen. If it were not for my daddy, I would not have reached what I have achieved so far. If it were not for my daddy, a lot of those people would have already succeeded in putting me down, in backstabbing me.

How are you planning to position yourself this year?

I am coming out with a new album and before we release it, we will talk about how and what we can do to introduce something new so that people will be able to identify with the fact that I am reinventing myself. I am just waiting for my album to come out. *Ayokong masabi ng mga tao na basta-basta na lang ako nagbago* or *nag*-reinvent *ng sarili*. I want to be consistent. I want to evolve because it's a goal, a project, or there is something I want to achieve. *Hindi yung parang basta na lang naisip kong magpagupit na lang or mag-iba ng damit. Tapos walang kasunod nun! Parang, bakit? Parang walang* reason, *di ba? Gusto ko yung may rason. Gusto ko yung laging may* reason *kung bakit ginawa ko ito* or *bakit ganito ang suot kong damit.*

Speaking of body, what would you never wear?

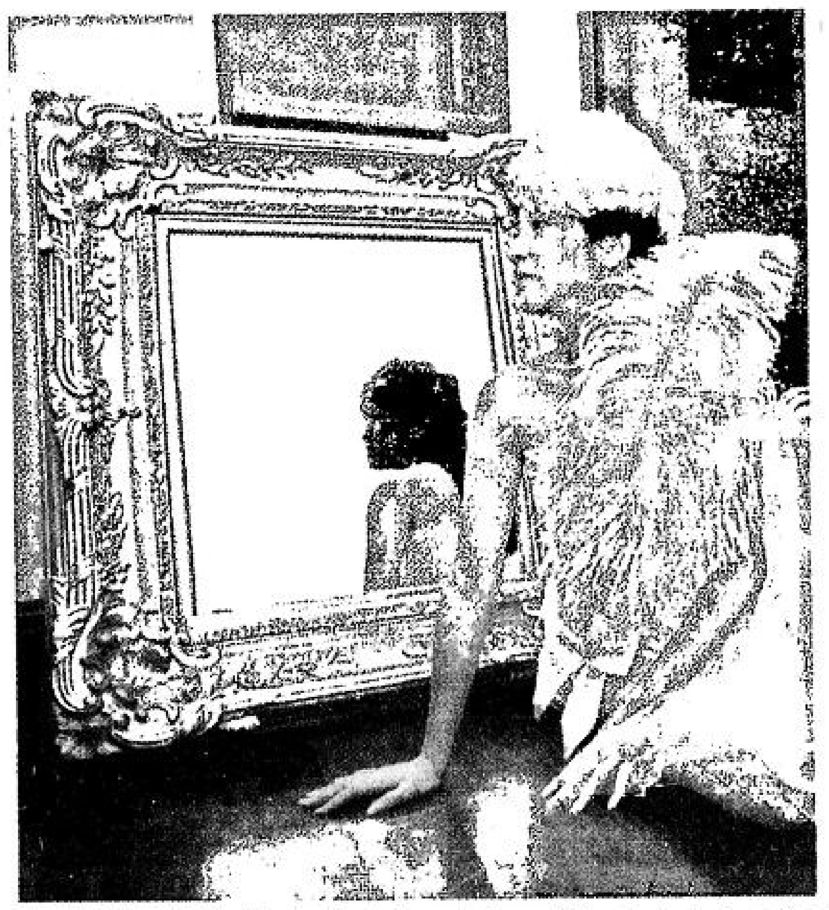
I would never wear a "bra" look. I need to wear something that would allow me to retain my self-respect. I could never be the bold star type—I think Britney Spears showed a little too much in her latest looks.

What's *baduy* for you?

Yung victim. *Yung kung ano-anong suot mo tapos nahihiya, yung hindi niya ma*-carry. *Kasi minsan kahit paghaluhaluin mo, merong iba yung dating, eh. Pero minsan talaga merong halo-halo na gusto mong tanungin kung ano'ng* statement *yan* and *mag-iisip ka na, "Ano yan?"*

What or who for you is "fashionable"?

Someone who can carry himself or herself. You can be simple or fabulous with what you're wearing, *pero* what's more important *eh dala mo ang sarili mo*. It's really not the clothes, it's how you carry yourself. I find Agot Isidro, Pops Fernandez, Regine Velasquez and Zsa Zsa Padilla very fashionable. *Pero talagang ang pinakagusto ko si* Tessa Valdes ever since!



HOLLYWOOD GLAM. In the future, Jolina will be looked at as the star who defined a generation.

Breaking the barriers

(From page C2)

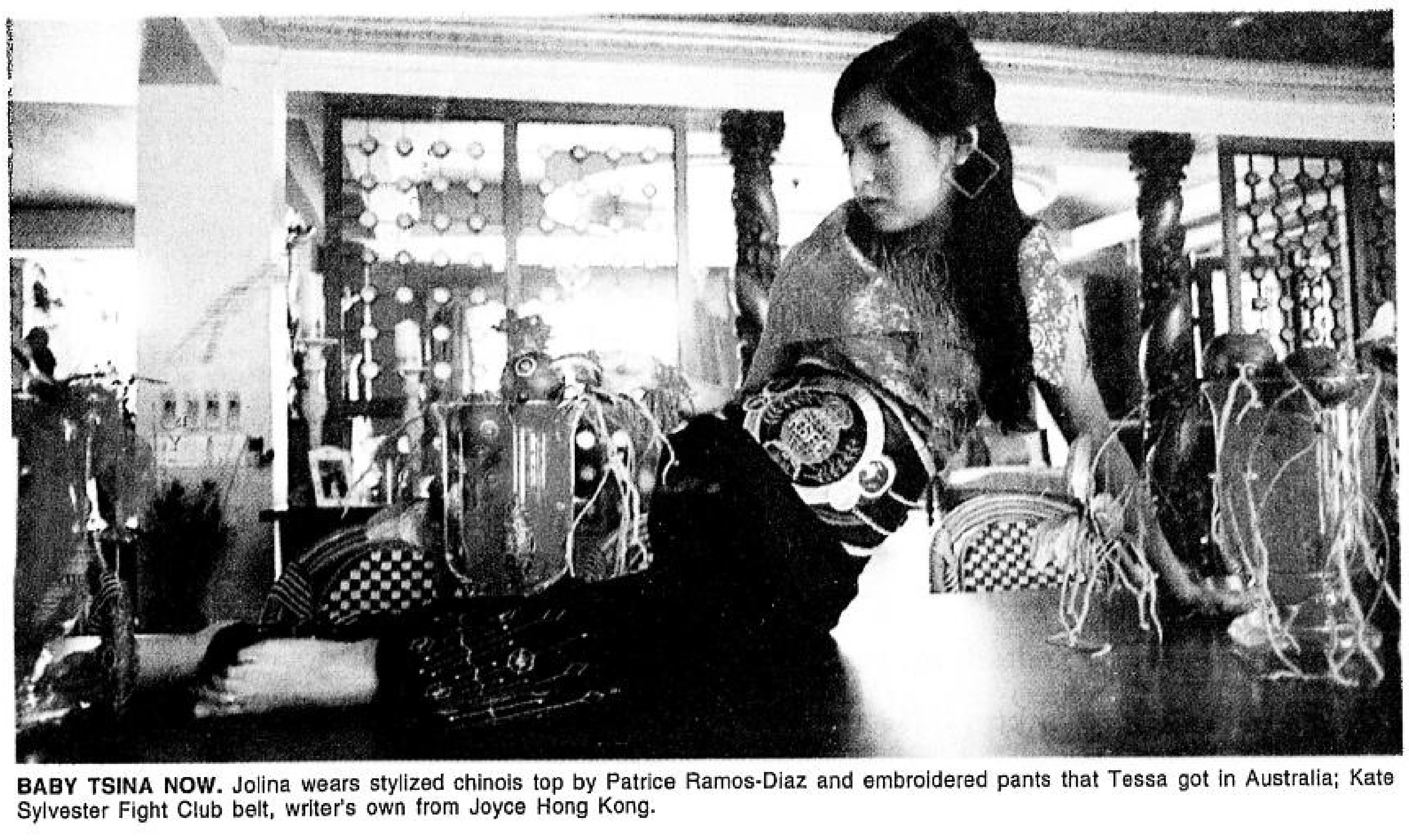
chest), which she got as a gift last Christmas. "Now this is worth so much more!" she boasted after looking at the autographed doll box.

With makeup artist **Berns Duenas** in tow, La Jolini would later shift from one look to another. From Britney to Baby Tsina, opera star to kitsch queen, she flowed from one role to another with an ease so rare in today's crop of overeager, tiredly typecast so-called stars.

Animated in one pose, pensive in another, sexy and seductive in the next. Camp couture fit to a T. Stylish to say the least. What role do we want to see her play in the future? A multicostumed, campy Darna would be ideal for Pinoy pop now, we think. **Judy Ann** can be "Dyesebel" (since we hear she is into diving). Then we can have the ultimate campfest—"Darna meets Dyesebel!"

I can't wait to see the *colegialas* crouching in the cinemas, shrieking to each other as they watch the film and say, "It's sooo *baduuuyyy*!"

BIBBITY BOBBITY BOO! Put them together and what have you got? Jolina Magdangal, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and your columnist at the shoot at the Valdes residence.



BABY TSINA NOW. Jolina wears stylized chinois top by Patrice Ramos-Diaz and embroidered pants that Tessa got in Australia; Kate Sylvester Fight Club belt, writer's own from Joyce Hong Kong.

MTV Asia Awards 2002
Categories & Nominees

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST - Philippines
(Keyword: MUSICARTIST)
A - Freestyle
B - Gary Valenciano
C - Lea Salonga
D - Martin Nievera
E - Regine Velasquez

FAVORITE MALE ARTIST
(Keyword: MALEARTIST)
A - Eminem
B - Ricky Martin
C - Robbie Willams
D - Ronan Keating
E - Shaggy

FAVORITE FEMALE ARTIST
(Keyword: FEMALEARTIST)
A - Britney Spears
B - Christina Aguilera
C - Jennifer Lopez
D - Madonna
E - Mariah Carey

FAVORITE POP ACT
(Keyword: POPACT)
A - Backstreet Boys
B - Destiny's Child
C - M2M
D - N'Sync
E - Westlife

FAVORITE ROCK ACT
(Keyword: ROCKACT)
A - Bon Jovi
B - Coldplay
C - Limp Bizkit
D - Linkin Park
E - U2

FAVORITE VIDEO
(Keyword: VIDEO)
A - The Call (Backstreet Boys)
B - Weapon of Choice
(Fatboy Slim)
C - 19-2000 (Gorillaz)
D - POP (N'Sync)
E - Lady Marmalade
(Pink, Christina Aguilera,
Mya, Lil' Kim)

FAVORITE BREAKTHROUGH
ARTIST (Keyword: BREAKTHROUGH)
A - Coldplay
B - Gorillaz
C - Nelly Furtado
D - Alicia Keys
E - Linkin Park

FAVORITE FILM
(Keyword: FILM)
A - Charlie's Angels
B - Crouching Tiger,Hidden Dragon
C - Rush Hour 2
D - Pearl Harbor
E - Shrek
F - The Mummy Returns

FAVORITE FASHION DESIGNER
(Keyword: FASHION)
A - Donatella Versace (Versace)
B - John Galliano (Christian Dior)
C - Marc Jacobs (Louis Vuitton/
Marc Jacobs)
D - Miuccia Prada (Prada/Miu Miu)
E - Stella McCartney
F - Tom Ford (Gucci/ YSL)

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B-Gary Valenciano
C-Lea Salonga
D-Martin Nievera
E-Regine Velasquez
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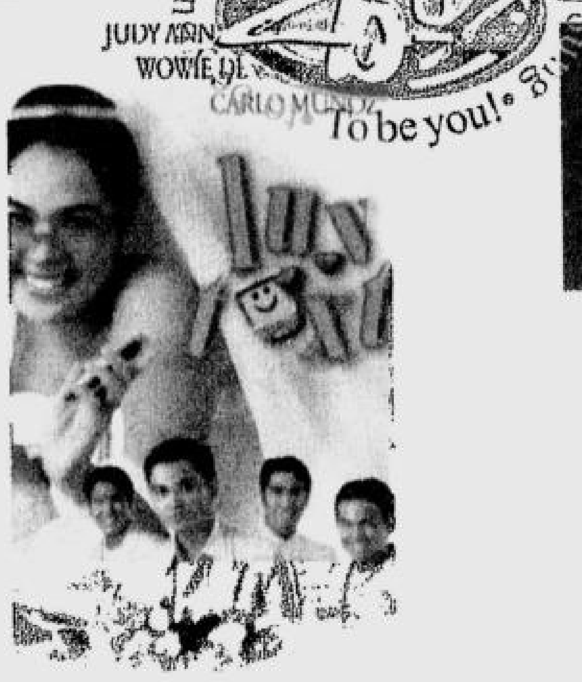


Pinoy movie 'ya-ba-da-baduys'

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bU! Correspondent

THEY have undoubtedly worn out their welcome. We are swamped with vivid recollections of these familiar movie scenes in local flicks that seeing them for the nth time has already become so tiresomely *baduy*. Hopefully, though, our scriptwriters will be able to tide over these predictabilities soon and finally dispense with these (*baduy*) movie déjà vu like those listed below:

IN DRAMAS

- Up-to-no-good stepfathers, yielding to sexual temptations of raping their prepubescent, pubescent or adult stepdaughters.
- Female protagonists and villainess(es), after losing themselves in colorful and offensive verbiage, indulge in a superb *sampalan* sequence.
- Actors and actresses bursting into tears, nasal mucus invisible even to the most strained eye.
- The sick on their deathbeds, untimely passing away, barely completing their parting speeches.
- Couples talking in undertones, the female wrapped by a blanket until upper breasts or waistline (for men) in post-lovemaking moments.

IN COMEDIES

- Couples out to dine as a group in some posh restaurant, tight for money when handed the bill, waiter kept on the trot as insects of any kind is put to the food.
- Love pairs at a beach scene, leaping off their feet toward each other's direction, the girl ending up carrying the boy, instead.
- Comedians with unclouded happiness, kiss their love interests in dreams, realize they're "pashing" with someone else's foot or armpit when awaken.
- Comedians passionately roused to snog their objects of affection, gradually approach their lips with eyes shut as women swap places with others (even with a guy, sometimes).
- Comedians spraying out water or food particles from their mouths once the punch line is delivered by a costar.
- The whole cast rendering a song and dance intermission usually in beaches, complete with backup dancers clad either in swimsuits or floral get-ups.

IN ACTIONS

- Male lead stars and villains trading umbrageous remarks before withering each other's lives.
- Lead partners (male and female), caught in an exchange of heated, silly chatter, the girl losing the thread of the argument as the guy gets into a temper and kisses her.
- A flock of gangsters threatening to thrash the life out of the male protagonist, who's solely against them in the bullfight but still prevails them in the end.
- The presence of a bombshell to partner with the male lead star to intensify machismo.
- Lead stars escaping an explosion is slow motion-shots.

IN HORRORS

- That extremely familiar, old woman harping on the same "*aswang/manananggal*" role in almost every contemporary local horror film (refer to Yaya of that "Shake, Rattle, and Roll" sequel where Kris Aquino was tapped to play the lead).

IN TFS

- Pitiable female unknowns who ridiculously strike a bawdy pose even when they just have to converse a regular talk with someone in a scene.

EVERYWHERE

- Estranged couples on the brink of patching up but either sees the other cozy with someone else (which is of platonic function only, of course).
- The sudden sight of a love interest being dramatically tonic to winning a race or any game.
- Lovers kissing in the middle of a clapping crowd (which a lot of foreign flicks contain as well).

Ilostitatthe(Pinoy)movies

By Pam Pastor

SEVEN randomly selected Tagalog movies in two sleepless nights. Quite a handful, to be understated about it.

For so long now, people have been waving off Pinoy flicks. After all, who wants to watch actors and actresses suddenly bursting into a song in the middle of a scene? Who enjoys those silly car chases? Or villains who, even after being gunned down, stabbed and electrocuted, just refuse to die? But are these little annoyances all that Pinoy movies have to offer?

Along with the people I took as hostages in my house, I decided to find out the state of Filipino movies in my own version of the Metro Manila Film Festival.

'SPIRIT WARRIORS'

The Streetboys, Joel Torre, Denise Joaquin

THERE is more to the school's camera club than meets the eye. The members are actually gifted with psychic powers (most of them, anyway). They can see and communicate with spirits. Their powers lead them to different adventures, most significant of which is their battle with an ancient spirit called Ulanaya, who can mutate into many forms. Aside from this, the students also have to face their own ghosts, an unreasonably strict principal and their adviser who goes off the deep end after finding out that the students evaluated him poorly. The plot is nothing exceptional, but the viewers will be riveted by the special effects. Excellent effects, reminiscent of those seen in "The Mummy," "The Frighteners" and "The House on Haunted Hill." Wish I can say the same thing about the acting.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN SPIRITS?
SPIRIT WARRIORS
I BELIEVE

'Honey, Nasa Langit Na Ba Ako?'

Janno Gibbs, Regine Velasquez, Mickey Ferriols

EXIT dancers, enter singers. Janno and Regine are engaged to be married. The engagement itself is quite memorable—cheesy, to be exact. Picture this: Regine looks around the restaurant and says, "*Di ba mahal dito?*" Janno says, without missing a beat, "Okay *lang, mahal naman kita eh.*" Cringe. Shudder. Suddenly Janno's students walk in one by one carrying a red rose for Regine. Janno breaks into song. It was fine—sweet even—until Regine decides to join in, making you wonder if you're watching a movie or one of them noontime shows. Yes, both of them can sing, the whole nation knows that. They could have skipped exercising their vocal chords in this movie, especially since they aren't even singing live. I mean, come on, Madonna did a few movies without having to sing. Jennifer Lopez did not start crooning in the middle of "The Wedding Planner."

On with the story. On her way to the wedding rehearsal, Regine gets into an accident and dies. She goes around not aware that she's dead—yet. She goes through people, walls, what-have-you and can't touch things. Think "Ghost," think "Heart & Souls." (For some reason, though, the picture suddenly turns widescreen during scenes with special effects. Weird.)

Janno sinks into his melancholic pit to the point of taking out his anger on his students. Regine is finally able to show herself to Janno and after getting over the initial fear, he embraces her presence and they live in the house they prepared when Regine was still alive. Regine makes it her mission to find a new girl for Janno, to make sure he moves on.

Incurable romantics may enjoy this movie. I swear, even though he continues to vehemently deny it, my brother cried. (Please don't kill me, Pow.)

That adorable little girl Bea makes the movie worth watching.

'BANYO QUEEN'

Andrew E., Rica Peralejo, Mystica, etc.

YOU never know what to expect when watching Pinoy movies. A movie you think would just be another slapstick could take you on a dizzying, seemingly endless, gut-wrenching roller-coaster ride.

The movie begins with an unbearably long and supposedly hilarious scene that basically shows Andrew E. wearing nothing but briefs (as if anyone wants to see that) running around the city, causing chaos. Andrew's character Drew is a motel maintenance person who turns into a fumbling idiot whenever a hot girl is in front of him. Rica is Angelie, a 20-year-old vampire who has to kill a virgin before she turns 21 to avoid dying. (Still with me?)

Another series of forgettable scenes would be of Mystica—red glossy boots, fishnets, lace and all—teaching Angelie the "art of seduction," which involves a lot of ass-shaking and vegetables of different sizes. (If this indeed is the art of seduction, we may expect procreation to come to a halt soon.)

Angelie and Mystica's character hang out in the motel waiting for prey. The chosen virgin is Drew, but Angelie refuses to kill him because—gasp!—she likes him. So the two run away together only to be caught the very next day. Angelie's Addams Family-like brood convinces her that she has to kill Drew or else... But because Angelie loves him, she has another way out—sleep with him and turn into a mortal. To further add to the confusion, there are three vampire killers (killers, not slayers) who are constantly hanging around, waiting for the chance to kill Angelie.

VHONG NAVARRO MYSTICA CHOLO ESCAÑO
ANDREW E. & RICA PERALEJO
Banyo Queen

In many ways, this movie fits the stereotype of a Pinoy comedy. Yes, there is a song number; yes, there is a car chase, which includes an old woman climbing up a pole (that coincidentally ends right in front of Angelie's house); yes, there is a beach scene; and, yes, the villains refuse to die. Electrocution only resulted in charcoal-smeared faces and hair standing on end.

One earth-shattering point. Drew is not the only virgin on the planet, is he? Then again, if the film chose to be realistic, it will not exist at all.

You must be wondering—why the title? That stems from the correspondence between Drew and Angelie on the bathroom wall in the beginning of the movie. Their little notes eventually turn into the lyrics of the movie's theme song.

The movie led me to one simple conclusion: Andrew E. at 3 a.m. is not good for one's sanity.

Want to lose your sanity? Then watch Andrew E. as a virgin being stalked by a vampire who falls in love with him

'COOL DUDES 24/7'

Danilo Barrios, James Blanco, Cogie Domingo

IF your definition of cool is a cute guy with flashy car and access to dad's bank account then, okay, these guys are cool. "Cool Dudes" is perhaps an attempt to present a local version of the American teen movies that have taken the world by storm. And it's not a bad attempt at all.

Three young guys head off to Subic one summer to watch a bikini competition. Their plans go haywire when they discover that the tickets they bought are fake. Chasing after the scalper results in three different adventures for the boys. The three perspectives are cleverly presented in different segments that cover the same time span.

To look for character depth or complexity in the plot would be unfair in this case. Good cinematography and fresh faces—these are the reasons to watch this movie.

'LUV TXT'

Judy Ann Santos, Nida Blanca, Wowie De Guzman, Wilma Doesnt, Carlo Muñoz

THIS feel-good movie has a complicated and almost bizarre plot. Judy Ann plays a young girl who is desperate to have her own cell phone and begs her grandma (Nida Blanca) to buy her one. A cell phone arrives for her in the mail and grandma swears she did not buy it. Does Judy Ann go out of her way to find out who the mysterious gift-giver is? No. She immediately goes out and uses the phone. Soon, a phantom texter sends her sweet messages. This turns out to be Wowie, her longtime friend. Naturally, Judy Ann gets mad at him. Now this plot would be enough for one movie, right? Well, supposedly. But not this one. To further complicate things, Carlo Muñoz suddenly appears and befriends Judy Ann. Carlo turns out to be the ghost of her grandma's dead ex-boyfriend. To make the winding story short, Judy Ann, Wowie and grandma all travel back to the time her grandmother was still her age to straighten things out between the ex-lovers.

Wowie's penchant for punching glass is nothing short of comical, although I don't think this was intentional. Wilma shines in her role as Ebony, Judy Ann's best friend. Nida Blanca's performance as the bitter and cynical grandmother is memorable.

'Sumigaw Ka Hanggang Gusto Mo'

Carmina Villaroel, Eric Quizon, Ryan Eigenman, Gladys Reyes, Assunta de Rossi, Rufa Mae Quinto, etc.

THIS movie screams "Scream." From the celebrities that get "offed" in the opening segment (Polo Ravales, Kim De Los Santos, Dino Guevarra, Sunshine Dizon, Joyce Jimenez) and costumes to the screaming chicks (Gladys, Rufa Mae, Assunta) and misleading suspects (the buff janitor, among others).

If you like suspense, this movie will keep you guessing until the end.

'Narinig Mo Na Ba Ang L8est?'

Joyce Jimenez, Aga Muhlach

THIS one is a winner. Kudos to Jose Javier Reyes. Aside from spinning a very believable tale of love, he also gives a peek into the workings of the advertising industry and a satirical look at labels and how *chismis* is spread in the office.

Joyce is adorable in her role as the misunderstood art director. Aga—as usual—oozes with boyish charm. While the movie satisfies your "*kilig*" needs, it does not stop at that.

My brother stayed up until 5 a.m. (ignoring my mom's shrieks telling him to go to sleep) to finish the film.

This is the one movie of the lot that I would recommend. It's also the one I would like to watch again—and again and again. I'm actually thinking of getting a copy for my movie collection.

NARINIG MO NA BA ANG L8EST?

While the two nights of movie marathons have not completely turned my tastes around, I am now making a mental note to check the Tagalog shelves whenever I visit my neighborhood video rental stores. Who knows, I may find another treasure yet.

E-mail the author at cookiedough junkie@yahoo.com

Endearing Canto Boys

Canto Boys
Canto Boys
MCA Universal

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

REVIEW

REMEMBER back in high school when you constantly made fun of April Boy Regino, and your definition of OPM "cool" was music by the Eraserheads and Rivermaya? Get ready to relive those high school days with this little pop package.

Joseph and Christopher Astor make up Canto Boys in MCA Universal's latest pop-band release. Originally from Angeles City, Pampanga, the brothers packed their bags and came to Manila in search of better opportunities to help support their huge family. Coming across a Genesis Entertainment ad in the papers, the siblings decided to audition. A total of 120 hopefuls turned up, eager to become boy band members. The list finally shrank to five, including the Astor brothers. Unfortunately, the five would-be boy band members could not harmonize, which proved a break for the siblings. They were back where they started—just the two of them.

As to how the brothers got their name is another story. In Filipino, the term "*kanto* boys" refers to youngsters who spend most of their time bumming around. Genesis decided to give it a twist by spelling "*kanto*" with a "c." The resulting "*canto*," Spanish for song, was quite appropriate for the Astors could sing. GenY teens, who swoon over the likes of Westlife and the A1 and claim they like those bands "because we love their music," should listen to the Canto Boys' album.

More pop

The Canto Boys' sound is more on the pop/R&B side. The music tends to have a cheesy beat and equally cheesy lyrics. The first track, "Muling Magbabalik" (the intro is a rip-off of the oldie hit "Love Me for a Reason"), showcases the boys' Gary Valenciano-esque singing style (they were trained by Mr. Pure Energy himself).

The brothers show off their R&B side on tracks like "Miss" and "Ikaw Lamang." Although we give them credit for trying out funky beats, it's quite disappointing that they stick to the happy-happy melodies most of the time (well, you sort of expect R&B from a band whose press releases claim its music is R&B). You have to give them points for covering Sting's "Tonight and Forever" and "Baby Don't Cry"—in Taglish. It may not sound like the best adaptation ever recorded but, hey, how many Filipino artists can do *that*?

Probably the most endearing thing about Canto Boys is the honesty in their lyrics. They may come off as cheesy, but no foreign boy band could really describe the way Filipinos cope with love and heartbreak like they do?

The five wannabe band members could not harmonize, which proved a break for the siblings

The carrier single, "Natotorpe Ako," is an all-too familiar look into courtship ("*Matagal na akong may gusto sa 'yo/ alam 'yan ng nanay ko, ng ate ko, ng barkada*"), and "Miss" is about that perfect girl who probably already knows she is that ("Miss, *ang lakad mo ay sobrang bilis hindi mo na alam ang inis/ng mga pusong natatangay mo*").

Tons of talent

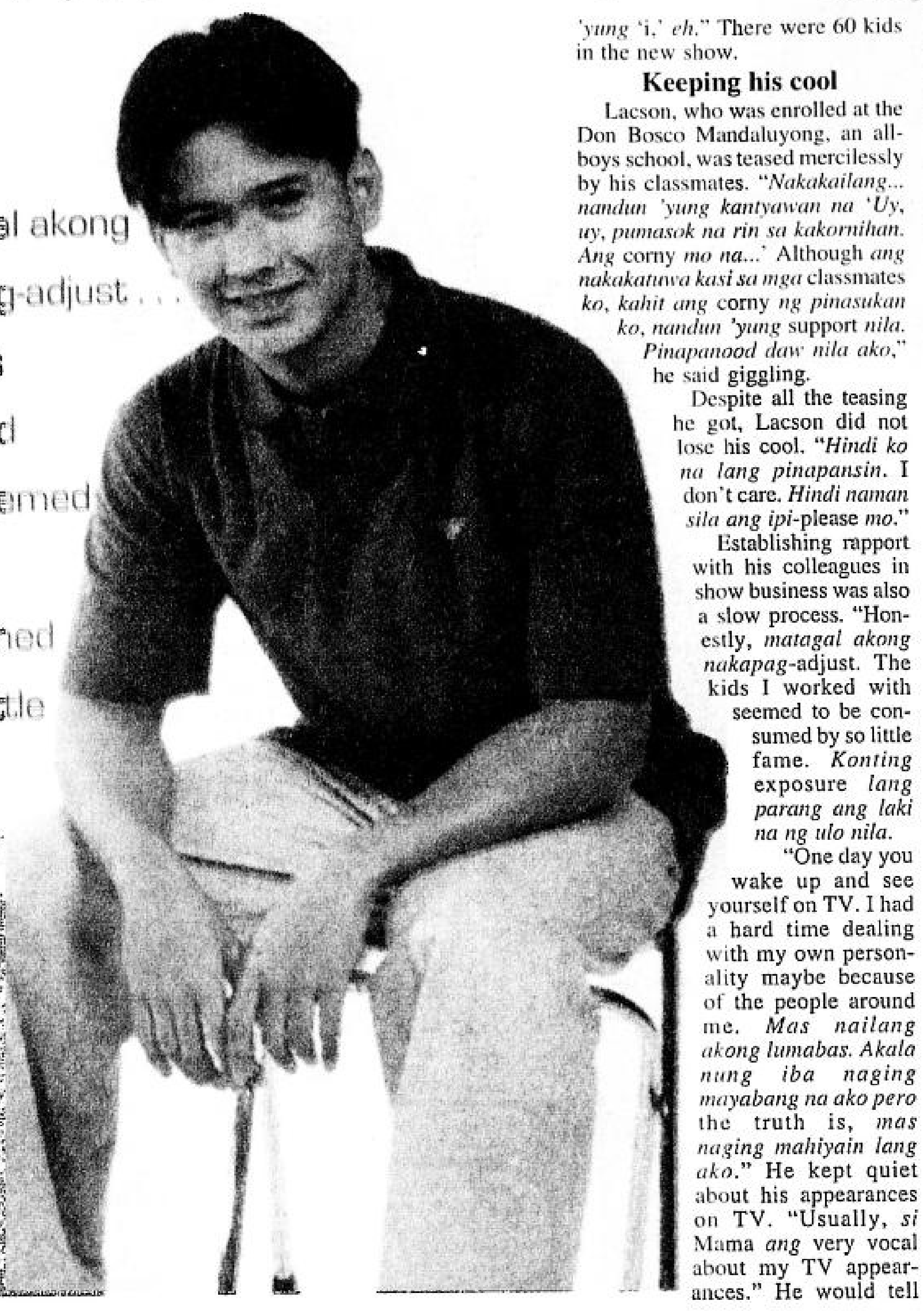
Out of the 10 tracks in the album, the brothers wrote only one, "Sagutin Mo Na Ako," a piece that could do without the voice-overs and annoying rap ditty. The duo also covers Ogie Alcasid's "Nandito Ako," which we could really do without (there is such a thing as too-many-covers-in-your-debut-album).

Canto Boys have tons of talent in their bones although they do not quite have the tunes for the show-band crowd and Westlife's popularity. It's obvious R&B is what they really want to do ("Sagutin Mo Na Ako" is laced with that R&B flavor), but for some reason, the ballads hold them back—which will make them fall into the boy-band bandwagon if they're not careful.

But then again, hey, it worked for A1 and Westlife, didn't it?

A 'Frend's' brush with fame

By Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent



'Matagal akong nakapag-adjust . . . the kids I worked with seemed to be consumed by so little fame'

VINA Morales, Ruffa Guttierez, Assunta de Rossi and Billy Crawford were among those who made it big in show business after they captured the hearts of Filipino fans through the teenage entertainment show "That's Entertainment."

Eventually, the show's format and name were changed and "That's Entertainment" became "Best Frends." Still aired Monday through Friday, "Best Frends" lasted for only a year unlike its earlier counterpart which allowed fans to watch their idols grow up on television.

Whatever its name, "Best Frends" or "Ang TV," a teenybopper show is a springboard for many young hopefuls to any field in the entertainment industry.

But how does a person handle all that attention at a very early age? What is it like to be starting or to be on "Best Frends" in particular? One guy looks back on his brush with fame.

Plain curious

Nikolai Lacson was once part of "Best Frends." His dad, who also once dabbled in acting, bumped into long-time friend Douglas Quijano, who immediately invited Nikolai to audition. On his part, the young Lacson was just plain curious. He started attending workshops, in one of which he met Gina Alajar. "To cut the long story short, *pinakilala ako ni* Ms Alajar *kay* Kuya Germs."

According to him, he had a six-month workshop under Kuya Germs together with other aspiring artists. Kuya Germs planned to revive "That's Entertainment," but the proposal was turned down. A new title was coined—"Best Frends." I almost misspelled it until he said, "Actually, *nawala lang 'yung* 'i,' *eh*." There were 60 kids in the new show.

Keeping his cool

Lacson, who was enrolled at the Don Bosco Mandaluyong, an all-boys school, was teased mercilessly by his classmates. "*Nakakailang... nandun 'yung kantyawan na 'Uy, uy, pumasok na rin sa kakornihan. Ang* corny *mo na...'* Although *ang nakakatuwa kasi sa mga* classmates *ko, kahit ang* corny *ng pinasukan ko, nandun 'yung* support *nila. Pinapanood daw nila ako*," he said giggling.

Despite all the teasing he got, Lacson did not lose his cool. "*Hindi ko na lang pinapansin.* I don't care. *Hindi naman sila ang ipi*-please *mo*."

Establishing rapport with his colleagues in show business was also a slow process. "Honestly, *matagal akong nakapag*-adjust. The kids I worked with seemed to be consumed by so little fame. *Konting* exposure *lang parang ang laki na ng ulo nila.*

"One day you wake up and see yourself on TV. I had a hard time dealing with my own personality maybe because of the people around me. *Mas nailang akong lumabas. Akala nung iba naging mayabang na ako pero* the truth is, *mas naging mahiyain lang ako*." He kept quiet about his appearances on TV. "Usually, *si* Mama *ang* very vocal about my TV appearances." He would tell his mom, "*Huwag mong sasabihin na lumabas ako*." He often appeared on "Pintados" and "Master Showman" and was interviewed on radio. "Mama *ko ang mas nag*-gain *ng* friends. *Parang siya na rin ang tumayong* manager *ko*."

A PRODUCTION number with his "Best Frends" costars

WITH "MASTER Showman" Kuya Germs

If there was one thing he considered *baduy* doing on "Best Frends," it would be shouting out the words "best friends." He added, "There was one time *na nagkaroon ng parang* race *sa* set then *nadapa ako* with my face on the ground."

What he really missed with "Best Frends" was dealing with people. The former psychology student (he just shifted to nursing), said he loved observing people. With "Best Frends," he observed closely several colleagues. "*Nami*-miss *ko 'yung pag-o*-observe *ng iba't-ibang tao*," he said.

Study first

"It's not an ordinary life (acting). *Mas maraming lungkot kaysa sa saya.*"

"Best Frends" ended and Lacson did print advertisements, which he enjoyed more. "*Kasi pa*-pose-pose *ka lang* then smile, although *'yun nga lang nakakapagod din kasi papalit-palit ng damit*, but I like it better than being on TV."

Now that he had a taste of what it was like in show biz, he would advise aspirants to think twice before joining the industry. "*Mas mabuti pa na mag-aral na lang*. If they really want to be actors they must be ready for criticisms, set aside their own personality because they might lose it, and always keep their feet on the ground. Don't forget who you are."

How would he define *baduy?* He said, "*Pa*-cute and overacting. *Nagiging baduy din ang isang tao 'pag hindi siya* intellectual and *walang alam kung hindi 'yung mundong ginagalawan niya*."

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Paperback romances win Pinoy hearts

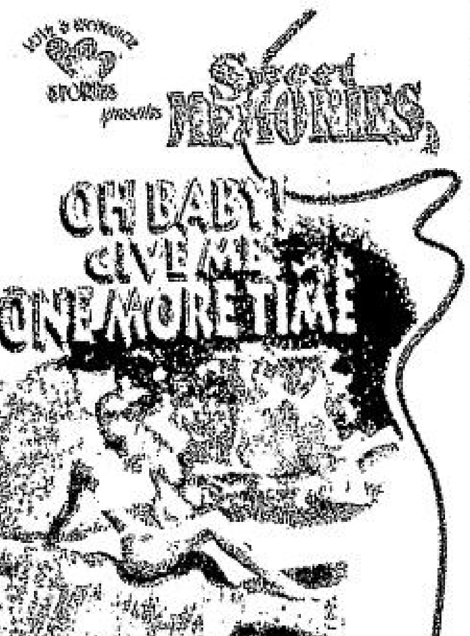
By Anne Rose A. Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent

"*KAY* Shanie *ka may obligasyon.* And if you're man enough, *harapin mo ang multong ginawa mo. Ang lalaking tumatakbo sa responsibilidad ay 'yung walang* balls."

"Yuck, *baduy*," a friend commented peering over my shoulder as I read my first Pinoy romance paperback ("The Heartless Cupid," Part 1). It was precisely this sort of reaction that made me curious about Pinoy romance paperbacks. Many of those who call these paperbacks *baduy* haven't actually read them (nor have they expressed any desire to). Besides, what does *baduy* really mean? It's an ambiguous term that could refer to many things: a) something that has become passé; or b) something that's always been and will always be tacky.

Baduy doesn't always have a negative connotation. In fact, I don't know of any person who hasn't reveled in being *baduy* at one point or another.

I decided to read three of these Pinoy romance paperbacks to discover what made them *baduy*, if indeed they were.



Love & Romance Stories presents
Sweet Memories
Oh Baby! Give Me One More Time
Violy Saucelo Naron

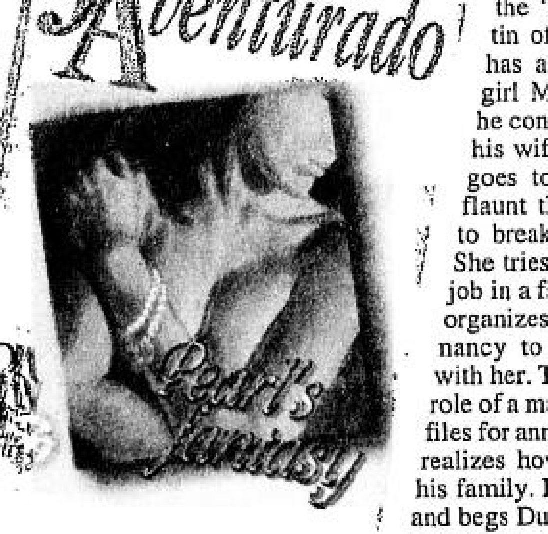
Many of those who call the paperbacks *baduy* haven't actually read them nor do they want to

The Heartless Cupid, Part I
By Cora Clemente
Precious Pages Corporation

Synopsis: This is about two star-crossed lovers. Sapphire's boyfriend gets her younger sister pregnant. On the other hand, Estefano, an heir to a large fortune, must get married and have a child first to get his inheritance. But his fiancée, Celina, dies in a car accident that was triggered by a fight between Sapphire and her former boyfriend. After the incident, Sapphire wants to go back to her job abroad but her mom convinces her to stay and open an Italian restaurant called Sappharini (don't ask me). Estefano goes to the restaurant and the two meet. After a quick, tumultuous affair, Sapphire marries Estefano only to discover that Estefano plans to make her life miserable to avenge the death of his fiancée. Whew!

Comments: I've never encountered so many exotic names in a book before. If you think Sapphire is unique, you should meet the other characters—Regis, Devlin and Zidfred. The names and the very melodramatic plot remind me of the radio soap operas my *yaya* used to listen to when I was younger. The book actually has good romantic potential but the corny lines of the characters will make you cringe.

For instance, Estefano, placing his order at Sapphire's restaurant the first time, says, "A cup of your smile and a plate of your precious time to be with me at my table." Um, yeah.



Oh Baby! Give Me One More Time
By Violy Saucelo Naron
S.G.E Publishing Inc.

Synopsis: Paolo, the "local Ricky Martin of the Philippines," has an affair with rich girl Margaux. Although he constantly denies it to his wife Dulce, Margaux goes to great lengths to flaunt their affair and try to break up his marriage. She tries to get a modeling job in a fashion show Dulce organizes and fakes a pregnancy to make Paolo stay with her. Tired of playing the role of a martyr spouse, Dulce files for annulment. Paolo then realizes how much he values his family. He leaves Margaux and begs Dulce to give him another chance (thus, the title).

Comments: A little originality is needed here. The source of the title is pretty obvious (hi, Britney) and the husband-leaves-wife formula has been used and reused so many times that it has ceased to elicit our sympathy. Moreover, dramatic events are not evenly spread that the ending seems too much like a cop-out. The story dwells too much on the catty encounters and arguments between mistress and wife then rushes toward a reconciliation of the family.

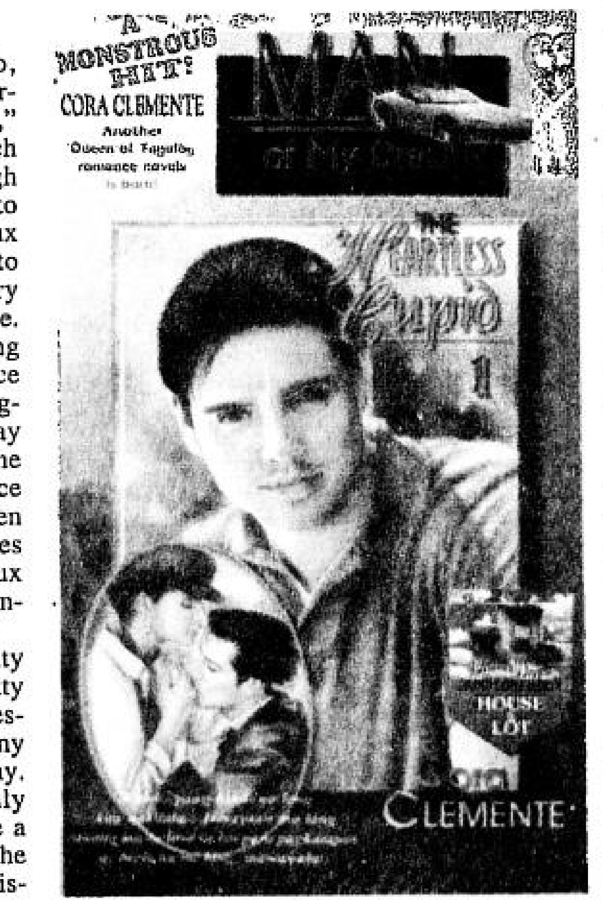
Pearl's Fantasy
By Josie Aventurado
Lorimar Publishing Co.

Synopsis: The suspense/thriller type of story dwells on the travails of billionaire August Nicolas Diamond's two daughters, Pearl and Amber. Pearl is quarreling with her American bodyguard/boyfriend Mark while Amber is somewhere in Australia, presumed to have been kidnapped. Actually, she has run away with Xander and is being pursued by the Australian SWAT team.

Comments: The title and the cleavage-baring woman on the cover may be provocative to male readers but they have little to do with the story. This paperback's plot is a bit more complex than the other two. But its fast-paced, flash-and-dash progression has little substance, leaving the reader without any lasting impression.

Reading the three Pinoy romance paperbacks certainly gave me some insights. A friend of mine—a talented *makata* who has written his share of great poems, plays and short stories in Filipino—said Pinoy romance paperbacks weren't *baduy*. He said, "*Baduy* is subjective. What may be *baduy* to you may not be *baduy* to others. Pinoy romance paperbacks just aren't well-written." I agree completely. But the paperbacks accomplish what books are meant to: create a temporary diversion and a highly entertaining escape to a problem-free world. They also possess a quaint charm that has endeared them to many readers who definitely do not find the Pinoy romance paperback *baduy*.

E-mail the author at anario@lycos.com



MY dancing! My friends tell me I dance like a white boy.—Martin, 21

I ENJOY reading Tagalog pocketbooks. I used to go with Sheryl Cruz to "That's Entertainment."—Mariel, 27

I LOVE watching Tagalog movies.—Rachel, 17

What makes you 'baduy'?

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

THIS was the most difficult survey I had to do. I practically forced some of the respondents and shared some of my dark secrets in order to get a decent answer. Asking about their weight or the type of underwear they're using is much easier.

Nowadays, one gets insulted when he's branded as *baduy*. Sometimes, we even sacrifice one thing we love so much in order to be accepted. But each of us has his own *kabaduyan*.

What makes me *baduy?* Memorizing by heart a famous dance step by Code Red, owning a pair of mustard yellow socks, writing stuff like "Mrs. David Bowie" or "Jude loves Tammy" on any blank space and having a crush on Leonardo DiCaprio back in grade six. Gee! I feel much better now.

Here are brave souls who shared what makes them *baduy*.

I'm *baduy* because I actually enjoy watching the S Club 7 show on the Disney Channel.—**Cherry P., 24, UPCM**

I know most Aegis songs by heart. I once joined a fan club of this newcomer *artista*. I went to tapings religiously.—**Louise, UP**

I used to tape "Marimar" and "Mula sa Puso." I even skipped meals sometimes just to watch them!—**Reena, 19**

I love reading Yes! Mag... the stories are interesting *naman, eh*!—**Julia, 22**

I memorized all the songs in "Pocahontas" as well as other Disney films. I believe that *Taglish* is the national language of Filipinos today. I'll write a *Taglish* book someday...I cry at some love songs.—**James, 21, UP**

I am an avid fan of Xerex.—**DD, 19, UP**

Wearing running shorts instead of jogging pants in the gym.—**Aries, 26**

I sing along whenever I hear "It's Raining Men" and "Take on Me."—**Jay-R, 20**

I followed the "Marimar" series. I have a Rufa Mae poster in my room.—**Lawrence, 22, AMA**

I have loved Abba since I was a kid...As a self-confessed "rocker," I still know the lyrics of almost all their songs and I still sing along when I hear them! How disgraceful!—**Paulino, 20, UA&P**

I saw Britney live and screamed like a girl.—**Quark, 21**

I used to read Sweet Dreams pocket books when I was young.—**Dinzo, 24**

'Yung Hagibis *ko na* ring tone.—**Ron, 19**

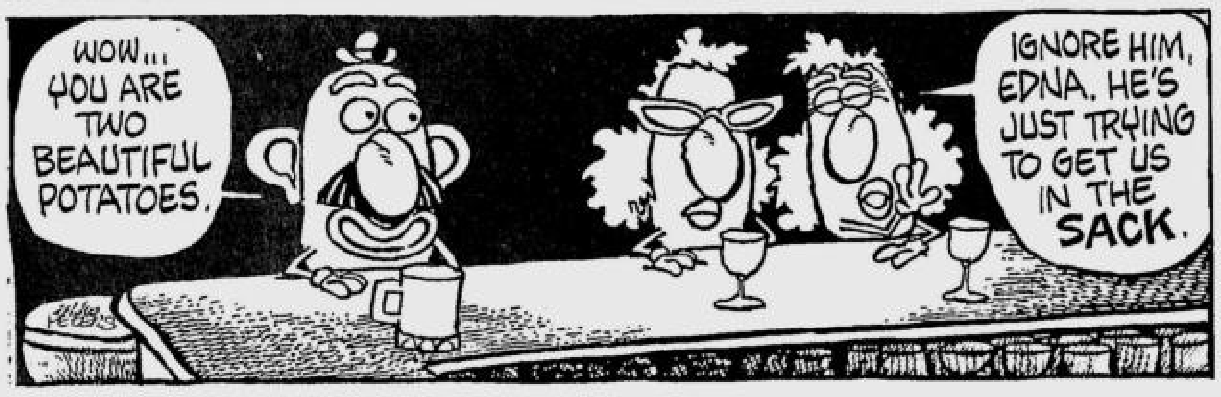
I look like Romnick Sarmenta.—**Telcontar, 27**

Wearing red on Valentine's Day.—**Huggies, 21, DLSU**

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

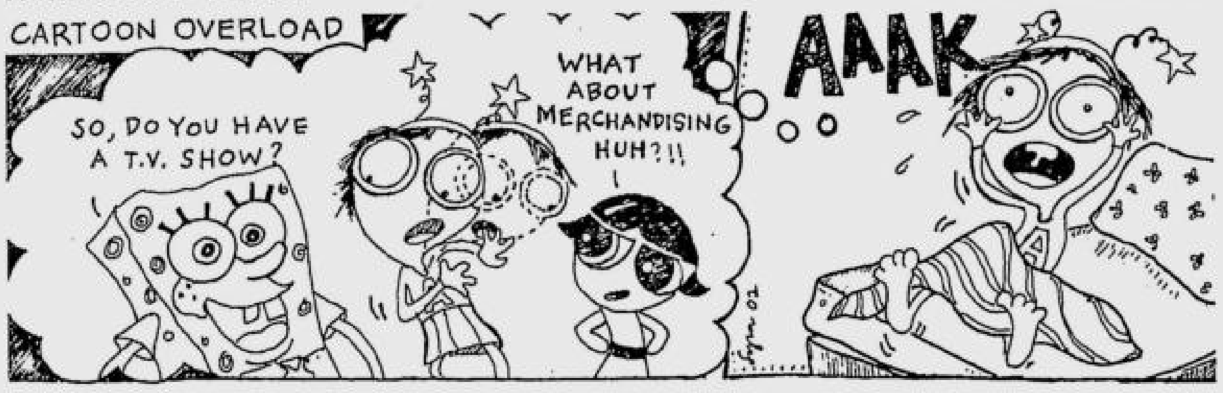
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WOW... YOU ARE TWO BEAUTIFUL POTATOES.
IGNORE HIM, EDNA. HE'S JUST TRYING TO GET US IN THE SACK.

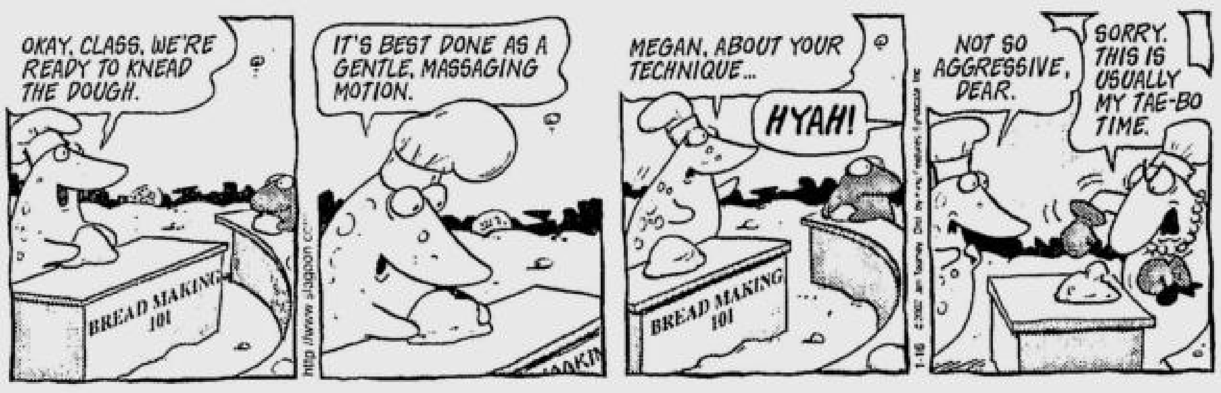
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


CARTOON OVERLOAD
SO, DO YOU HAVE A T.V. SHOW?
WHAT ABOUT MERCHANDISING HUH?!!
AAAK
Lyra 02

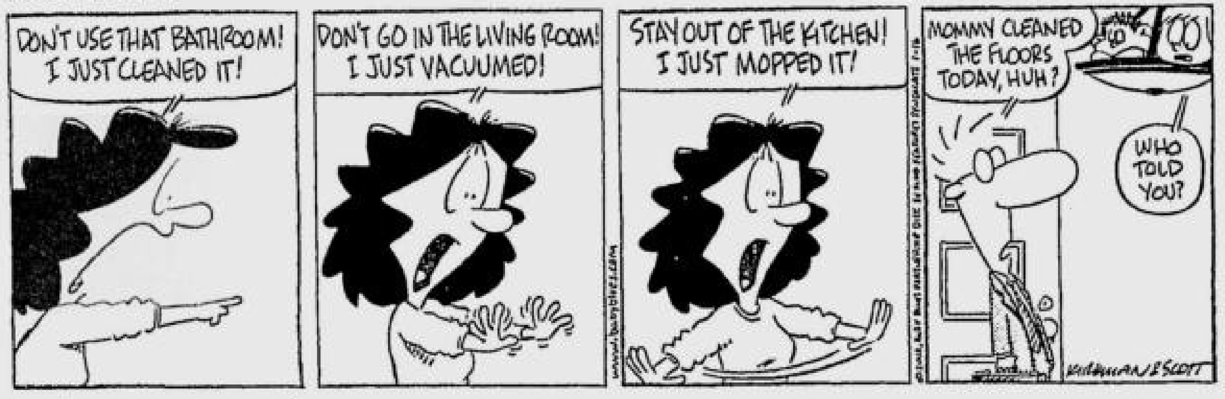
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, CLASS, WE'RE READY TO KNEAD THE DOUGH.
BREAD MAKING 101
IT'S BEST DONE AS A GENTLE, MASSAGING MOTION.
MEGAN, ABOUT YOUR TECHNIQUE...
HYAH!
BREAD MAKING 101
NOT SO AGGRESSIVE, DEAR.
SORRY. THIS IS USUALLY MY TAE-BO TIME.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DON'T USE THAT BATHROOM! I JUST CLEANED IT!
DON'T GO IN THE LIVING ROOM! I JUST VACUUMED!
STAY OUT OF THE KITCHEN! I JUST MOPPED IT!
MOMMY CLEANED THE FLOORS TODAY, HUH?
WHO TOLD YOU?
KIRKMAN/SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Debbie Allen, A.J. Foyt, Sade, Kate Moss

Happy Birthday: It's time to do something about any mistakes that you have made. Clear up loose ends and prepare to forge ahead. You may be in for a bit of a roller coaster ride, but if you act quickly you will be able to stay ahead of the game. Your numbers are 3, 7, 22, 28, 35, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You won't be afraid of hard work. An ability to be observant will bring you information that others don't want you to discover.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will use your know-how in order to help others. A generous, outgoing, knowledgeable manner will make you a true asset to any project.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your leadership qualities will be enhanced bringing you added respect and loyalty. You will discover easier ways to earn more money or to invest what you have saved.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be quick to make professional decisions and actively search for advancement. Don't shy away from a job; you'll be a welcome and responsible addition to any team you join.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Purchasing products for your home will lead to financial setbacks if you spend more than you can afford. You must gauge yourself carefully when it comes to money matters.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You should make whatever alterations are necessary in order to make your work environment more pleasant. Don't hesitate to ask for help if you need it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Promote your ideas with great detail, however, be careful not to divulge your plans to just anyone. Talk to people who can help you, not someone looking for a good idea to call his or her own.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will prosper through wise investments today. You could easily come into money that you weren't expecting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be the organizer when it comes to social events. You'll love both mental and physical competitions and will leap at the opportunity to test your skills.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may have concerns regarding your reputation and social standing today. You will find yourself working hard in order to stabilize your personal security.

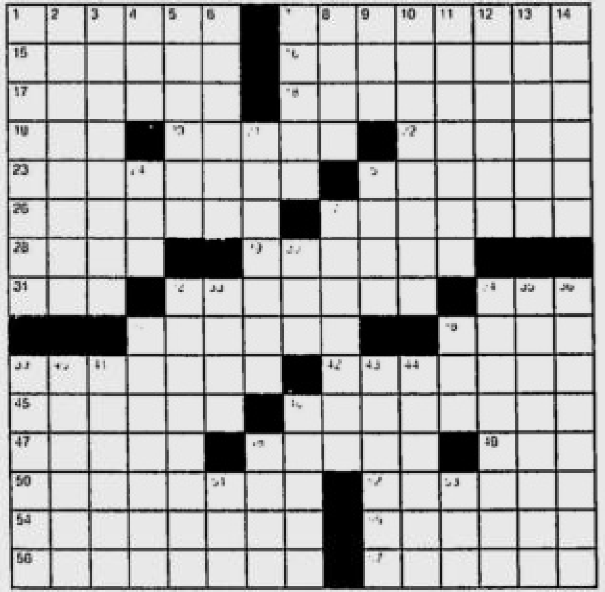
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will attract partners who are aggressive today. Take your time and use discrimination when getting involved with someone you know little about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You could easily get dragged into matters of a secretive nature. Try to stay cool and don't compromise.

Birthday Baby: You have a unique approach to life and because of this you will always provide an element of surprise for those around you. You are definitely not a follower, nor are you concerned with being a leader. You just want to do your own thing.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

12/1/01

ACROSS
1 Former Turkish titles
7 Cruise stops
5 Busy
6 Daytime formal jacket
7 Medicine man
8 Moving part of a loudspeaker
9 Mel Gibson movie
0 Short putt
2 Sample
3 Echoed
5 Pertaining to direct descent
6 Declared positively
7 Completely moisture free
8 Nothing more than
9 Proceedings
1 Proofs of age, briefly
2 Bound map collections
4 Sir Walter Scott novel, "__ Roy"
7 Field of activity
8 Jeans' man Strauss
9 __ Institute, Paris
2 More merciless
5 Sites of religious ceremonies
6 Benchmark
7 Circumvent
8 Cubicle furniture
9 Dance step
0 Visit briefly
2 Isolate
4 Second self
5 Not often
6 Eavesdropper
7 Meager

DOWN
1 Deli favorite
2 Carried through
3 Notary publics, at times
4 The man in question
5 Vishnu incarnation
6 Upper house
7 Far from flighty
8 Merit
9 Intent
10 Thin metallic coatings
11 Numbers at the pump
12 Awakened
13 Violent-tempered person
14 Donald Fagen's group, __ Dan
21 Hawker
24 Palindromic poetic preposition
25 Solitary
27 Divides into two equal parts
30 Rower's requirement
32 Camera opening
33 As a result
34 Backslider
35 Bibbed trousers
36 Frozen-meal pioneer
37 Hollywood hopeful
38 Guided
39 French mathematician Blaise
40 Soluble mineral salt
41 Wading birds
43 Leaf gatherers
44 Open a purse, perhaps
46 Madrid mister
48 Venetian magistrate
51 Write
53 Levin or Gershwin

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S	P	E	N	D	■	T	E	A	K	E	T	T	L	E
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A	C	R	E	■	A	L	G	E	R	■	I	R	A	N
T	O	D	D	■	P	L	E	A	S	■	N	I	N	E

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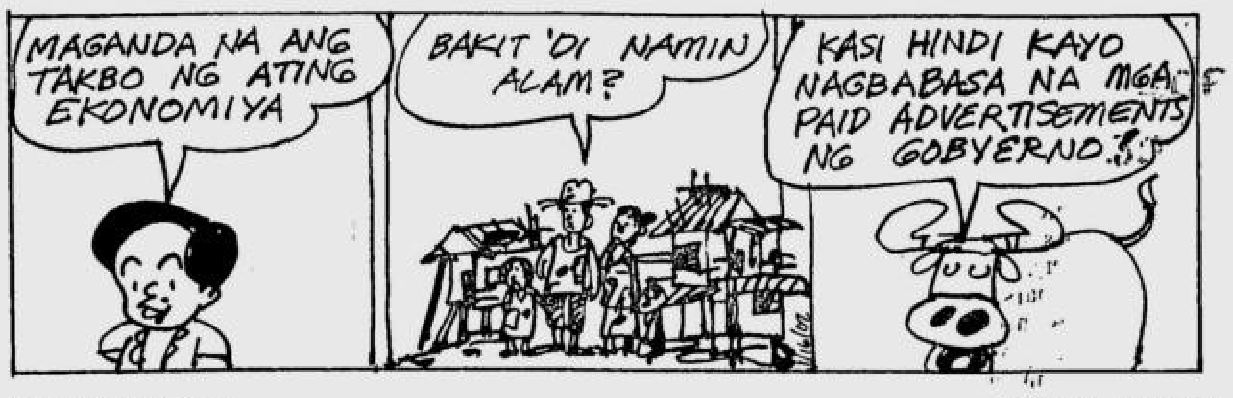
12/1/01

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA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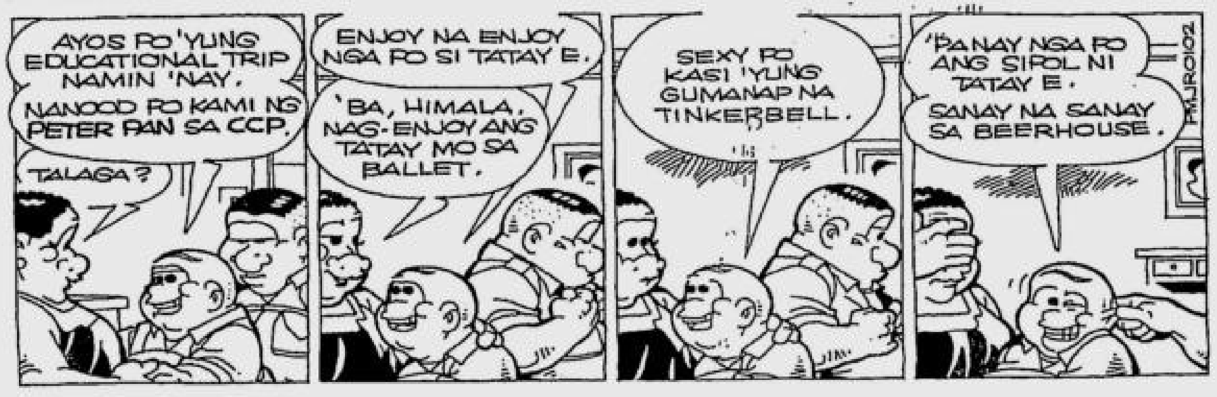
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NANOOD PO KAMI NG PETER PAN SA CCP.
TALAGA?
ENJOY NA ENJOY NGA PO SI TATAY E.
'BA, HIMALA, NAG-ENJOY ANG TATAY MO SA BALLET.
SEXY PO KASI 'YUNG GUMANAP NA TINKERBELL.
'PANAY NGA PO ANG SIPOL NI TATAY E.
SANAY NA SANAY SA BEERHOUSE.
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SIMO

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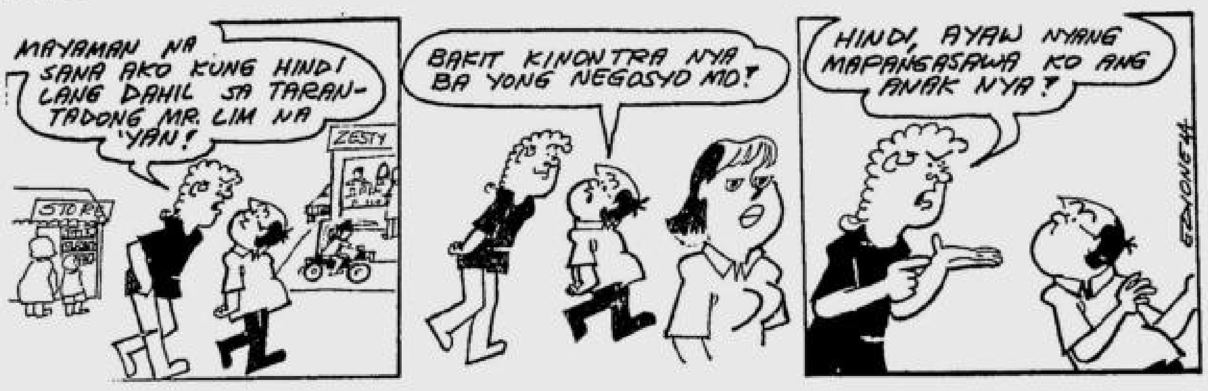
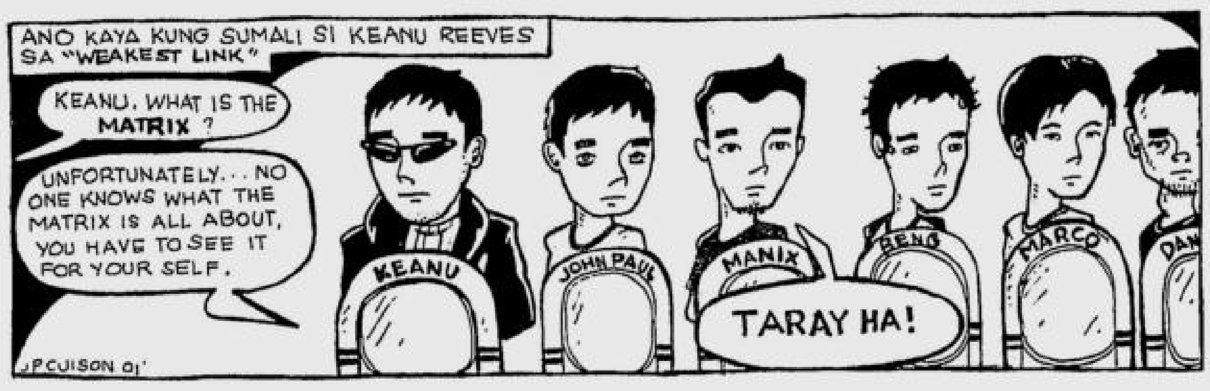

MAYAMAN NA SANA AKO KUNG HINDI LANG DAHIL SA TARANTADONG MR. LIM NA 'YAN!
STORE
ZESTY
BAKIT KINONTRA NYA BA YONG NEGOSYO MO?
HINDI, AYAW NYANG MAPANGASAWA KO ANG ANAK NYA?

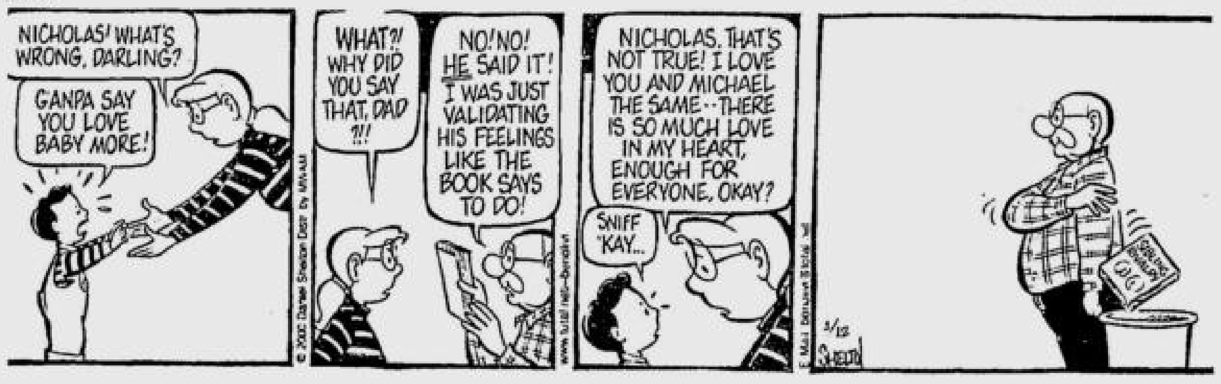
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


ANO KAYA KUNG SUMALI SI KEANU REEVES SA "WEAKEST LINK"
KEANU, WHAT IS THE MATRIX ?
UNFORTUNATELY... NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THE MATRIX IS ALL ABOUT, YOU HAVE TO SEE IT FOR YOUR SELF.
KEANU
JOHN PAUL
MANIX
BENG
MARCO
DAN
TARAY HA!
JPCUISON 01'

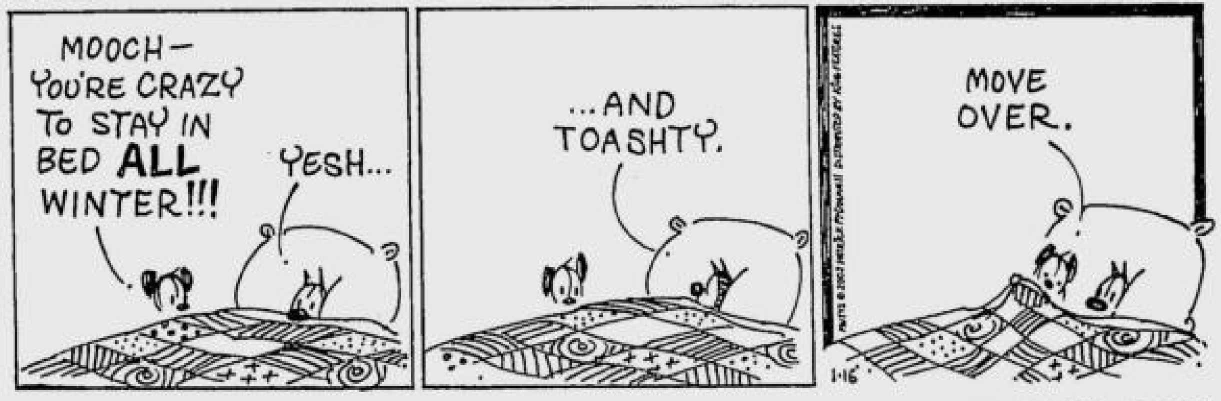
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NICHOLAS! WHAT'S WRONG, DARLING?
GANPA SAY YOU LOVE BABY MORE!
WHAT?! WHY DID YOU SAY THAT, DAD ?!!
NO! NO! HE SAID IT! I WAS JUST VALIDATING HIS FEELINGS LIKE THE BOOK SAYS TO DO!
NICHOLAS, THAT'S NOT TRUE! I LOVE YOU AND MICHAEL THE SAME--THERE IS SO MUCH LOVE IN MY HEART, ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE, OKAY?
SNIFF 'KAY...
SHELTON

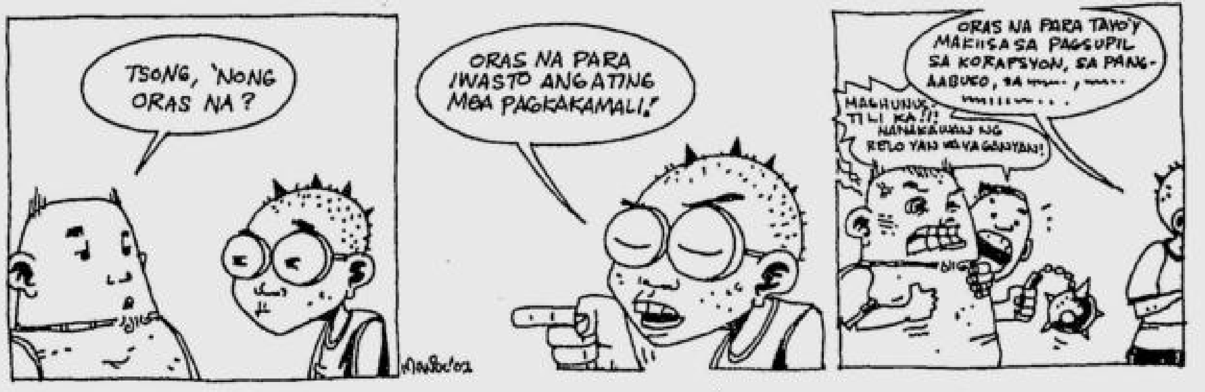
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MOOCH— YOU'RE CRAZY TO STAY IN BED ALL WINTER!!!
YESH...
...AND TOASHTY.
MOVE OVER.
1-16

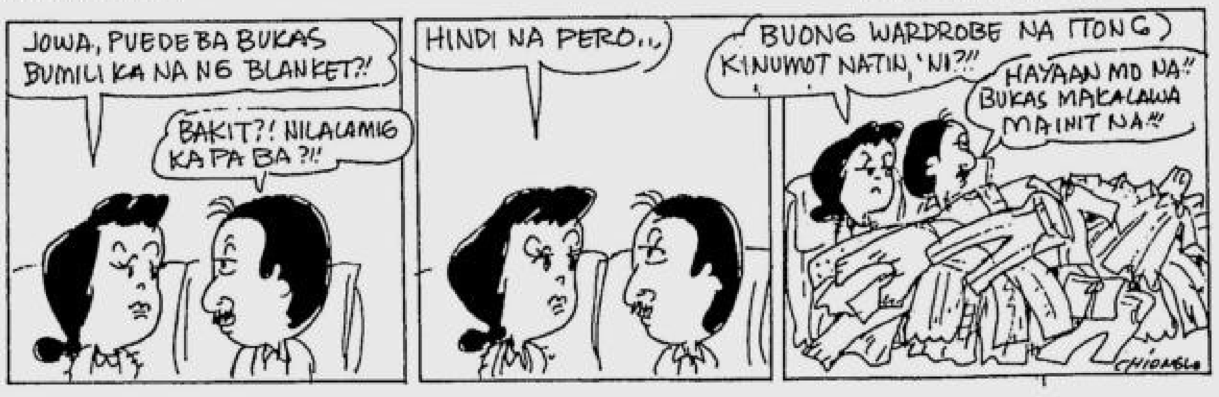
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, 'NONG ORAS NA?
ORAS NA PARA IWASTO ANG ATING MGA PAGKAKAMALI!
ORAS NA PARA TAYO'Y MAKIISA SA PAGSUPIL SA KORAPSYON, SA PANG-AABUSO, SA
MAGHUNUS-TILI KA!!
NANAKAWAN NG RELO YAN KAYA GANYAN!

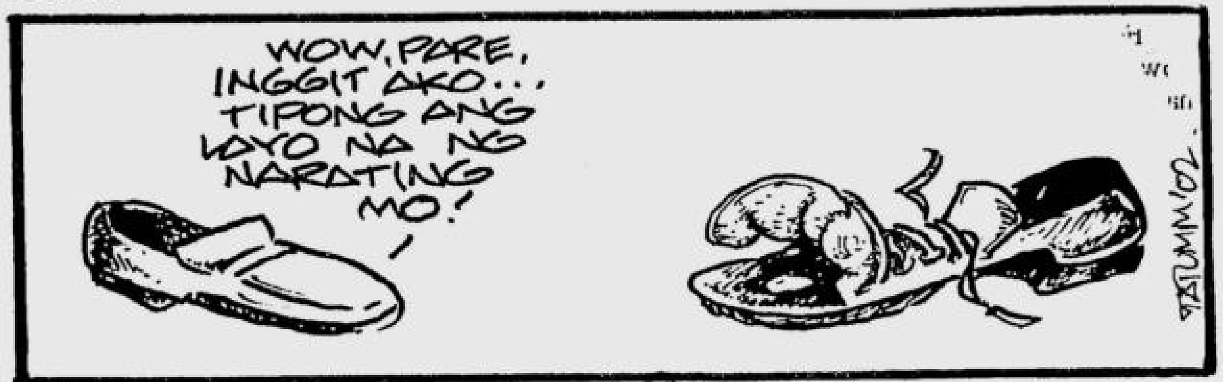
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, PUEDE BA BUKAS BUMILI KA NA NG BLANKET?!
BAKIT?! NILALAMIG KA PA BA?!
HINDI NA PERO...
BUONG WARDROBE NA ITONG KINUWOT NATIN, 'NI?!!
HAYAAN MO NA!! BUKAS MAKALAWA MAINIT NA!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


WOW, PARE, INGGIT AKO... TIPONG ANG LAYO NA NG NARATING MO!
TATUM '02

Curator talks about evolving art of communication

CURATOR Ramon "Richie" Lerma introduces innovative forms of self-expression into the Ateneo Art Gallery.

Although Lerma is involved in the visual arts, the curator of Ateneo de Manila University's prestigious art gallery certainly appreciates the evolving art of communication.

Of Touch Mobile's revolutionary Voice Info, a function that allows subscribers to listen to the latest in news, money, show biz, entertainment and lifestyle trends by pressing 8140 on their mobile phones, Lerma says, "It's something of great value. The gallery is currently expanding its public exhibition programs, so it would really be handy for people to dial a number and have access to all this information."

As for Voice Messaging, a unique Touch Mobile feature that enables subscribers to either send a prerecorded greeting (a.k.a. sound icons) or a personalized one by pressing 8160 on their mobile phones, the curator approves of this form of self-expression. "There's a big difference between hearing someone's voice and receiving the message in text," he points out. "If you're happy about something, that's clearly reflected in the tone of your voice, and if you're disappointed about something, then you bring that across as well. Emoticons and all those smiley faces just don't do it sometimes."

Museum curator

Judging from the sound of his commanding voice, it appears that Lerma, 29, is in his element as curator of the first museum of Philippine modern art. Since assuming the post last October, he has launched "ArtSpeak," an informal open forum between a visual artist and an intimate crowd. (Al Manrique, Fil Delacruz and Cheloy Dans were previous "art speakers.") "Some people seem to think that [an exhibition] is the only way to promote an artist and his merits," he observes. "But by setting up a friendly, nonthreatening atmosphere, it makes it easier for the artist and the audience to express themselves." Exhibits have also become more frequent in this viewing place. Thus far, Lerma is proud of a recent and extensive Ang Kiukok show. This month, the Ateneo Art Gallery, with Instituto Cervantes, will mount an unusual collection of caricatures by the late Filipino-Spanish artist Luis Lasa.

Not bad for someone who never planned to work in a museum in the first place. "No sane child would ever dream of working in one," chuckles Lerma. "It's not the first thing that comes to your mind in terms of a career." Still, when a friend told him about a school in Italy, the eldest of four sons packed his bags and studied art history—specifically Renaissance, Court Art—at the Instituto d'Arte di Firenze. While he led a charmed life in Florence (he lived a block away from Michelangelo's "David" and was a train ride from catching a show in Paris), Lerma decided after one year that the Philippines was his true home. "It may sound idealistic," he explains, "but not everybody has the opportunity to live in a magical city like Florence. And if I kept it all to myself, I would have missed out on the joy of sharing it with people."

Mentor and friend

One person privy to his passions was noted Ateneo professor Emmanuel Torres. "When I was in Florence, I was in correspondence with Professor Torres," says Lerma of his mentor and friend whom he met in an art appreciation class during his senior year. "I was particularly inspired by his lectures, so who better to share the experience of looking at a famous artwork firsthand than your professor?" Apparently, Lerma had made quite an impact on Torres as well. After brief stints at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila and the cultural section of the Italian embassy, he took up his professor's offer to write a review on an Ateneo Art Gallery. He also accepted the job of assistant curator and worked with the gallery for a year before flying to Australia to earn his master's degree at the University of New South Wales. After a quick trip back to the Philippines, it was off to Salzburg, Austria for a fellowship to the seminar "Museums in the 21st Century."

Having wrapped that up in a few months, Lerma was back home once again, just in time for a transition at the Ateneo Art Gallery. As the establishment's current curator, he succeeds Torres, who is now designated as senior curator until his retirement from the university on March 31. "There will only be one Professor Torres," says Lerma. "What I intend to do is bring in something new."

That includes promoting the Ateneo Art Gallery in any way he can. If he could send a personal recording through Touch Mobile's Voice Messaging function, what would he say? "Come to the Ateneo Art Gallery," he announces brightly. "We have bold and innovative exhibitions and engaging public programs. It's definitely worth the trip!"

Touch Mobile also allocates free text messages a month, NDD and IDD voice calls, the lowest voice call rate at P6.50 per minute, and nationwide connection through 1,600 cell sites.

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How to deal with baby skin problems

Makeover 911

Kinny Salas

'TIS the season to have babies, it appears, as a lot of my friends just gave birth or are going to any moment. Baby skin is vulnerable to rashes and allergies, most of which are easy to prevent and treat. For my friends' benefit, I have done some research on the four most common baby skin problems and how to deal with them.

Prickly heat. These acne-like pimples on the cheeks or on skin folds may appear when sweat glands are blocked by saliva or sweat and become inflamed. A lukewarm bath in a dissolving oatmeal product like Aveeno can soothe skin. The tendency of some parents is to apply ointments, which is too much for baby's sensitive skin and may further aggravate the problem by blocking the sweat ducts further.

Cradle cap. Marked by red bumps and scaly skin on the scalp, this is very common and is not caused by lack of hygiene or the shampoo you are using. A mild dandruff shampoo formulated by a dermatologist or even a commercial one like Head and Shoulders, Selsun Blue or Gard should clear up the scaliness in a week or two. Make sure to rinse the shampoo off very well as residue may irritate your child's scalp.

Diaper rash. These small red dots on the diaper area are caused by prolonged contact with a wet and soiled diaper. To treat and prevent, keep your baby's skin clear and dry, but go easy on the soap—it can be irritating. Change your baby's diaper immediately after a bowel movement. Use a barrier cream such as Vandol, petroleum jelly or zinc oxide to protect skin. Powder does not keep the baby any drier.

Atopic dermatitis. Also known as childhood eczema, this rough, red, itchy skin condition typically affects babies with a family history of eczema, hay fever or asthma. The good news is 90 percent of children outgrow this by age 5. Affected skin tends to be dry, aggravating the condition. To treat, moisturize with fragrance-free lotion twice a day or whenever skin appears to be dry. Most mothers use Eucerin, Aveeno, or Cetaphil lotion for their babies. Avoid washing with soap that dries the skin. Wash instead with soap-free cleansers like Oilatum, Cetaphil, or Physiogel or consult a pediatrician who may recommend a hydrocortisone product.

If any rash does not clear up within a week, it is time to bring your child to a pediatrician.

Tips for expectant mothers:

1. Smoking during pregnancy is associated with low birth weight and infant death.

2. Nausea relief. Strong odors such as perfume, workplace chemicals, the smell of pets or certain food are a powerful trigger for nausea and vomiting during pregnancy. Carry lemon wedges in a resealable plastic bag or citrus-scented oils and inhale the clean, fresh scent when you feel queasy.

(Research material obtained from Glamour magazine)

JED E.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

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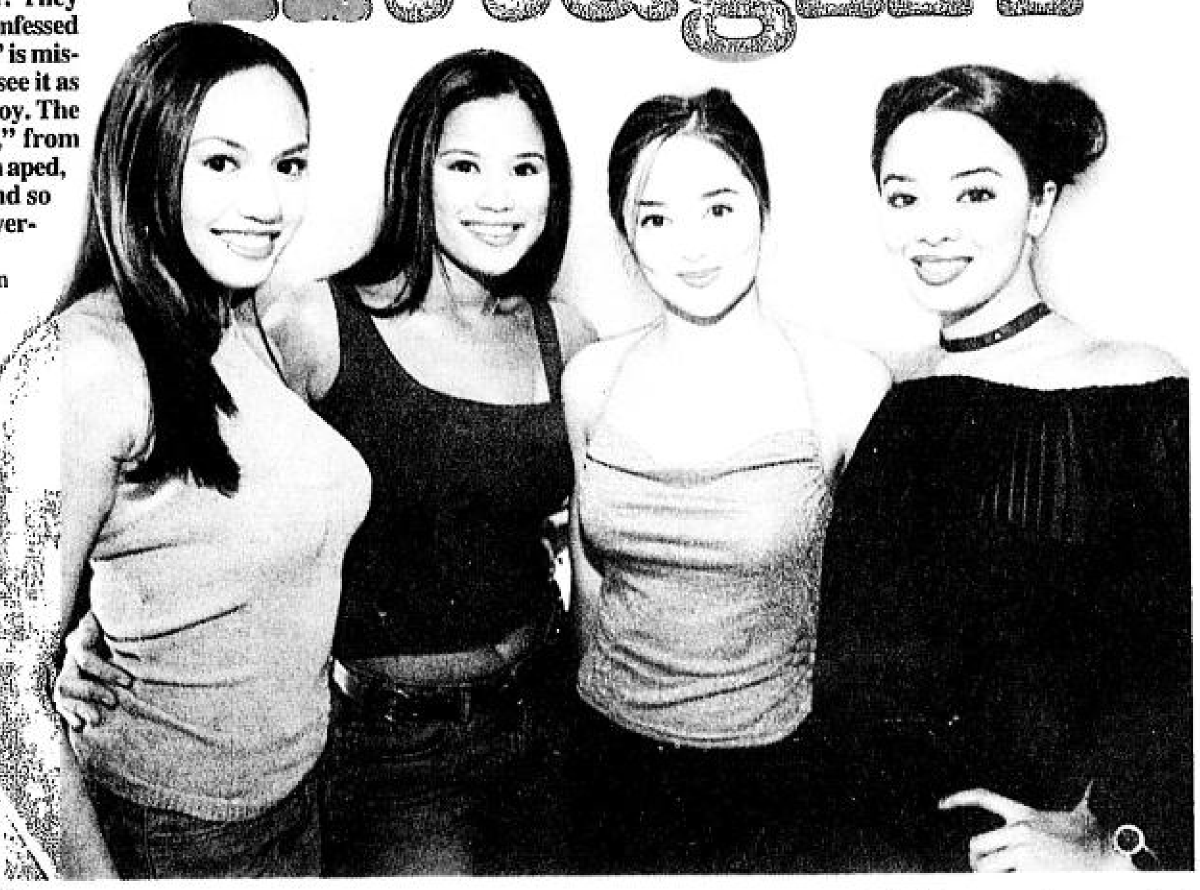
The girls of 'Attagirl'

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Joel P. Sol Cruz

The show may be a copycat of 'Sex and the City,' but it succeeds in being Filipino



WHEN I told my friends that I was interviewing the women of the TV show "Attagirl," they expressed surprise. Why was I interviewing them? They probably would have killed me if I had confessed that I actually liked the show. "Attagirl" is misunderstood, perhaps because Filipinos see it as another copycat repackaged to look Pinoy. The US cable program, "Sex and the City," from which "Attagirl" is supposed to have been aped, has a large following in the country, and so the aggressive attitude toward the local version is understandable.

The point is that "Attagirl" succeeds in being Filipino; it tells us of four young women who are not quite Carrie Bradshaw, but not quite Maria Clara either. They're as normal as modern Filipino women out there who are starting to think about and become comfortable with their sexuality despite the perceived conservatism of Filipinos.

"We are so hung up on that culture of memory," Jose Javier Reyes, director and scriptwriter of the show, says. "Memory of the Filipino culture which may have never existed at all and which we have illusions of being. This overpowering goodness and conservatism, we were never like that. But we'd like to think that we were like that." So that in "Attagirl," we don't see women weeping over philandering boyfriends and persisting in their martyrdom. We see the opposite. We see career women who change men just as they do the season's wardrobe.

I caught up with the four fine women who head the cast of "Attagirl." Michelle Bayle had a ready smile on her face and seemed to be a naturally sweet person. At 21, she has moved from Canada to Manila to test the waters of show business. She plays the role of Jerri, a wild and adventurous woman who seems to be getting on with anyone and everyone. "She's the most experimental among the four girls," Michelle explains. "There's always that woman who's carefree and prepared to take on whatever happens to her. Jerri is much like that." In other words, she's the girl whom you'd love to label as a slut, but whom you secretly wish to be your friend and hear stories from.

Meanwhile, Andrea del Rosario plays the role of Joey, a woman who places high expectations on potential partners due to her failed relationships. Recently, her character had another relationship mishap after discovering that her boyfriend was, in fact, gay. "She thought she was woman enough to change him," Andrea adds. The 23-year-old actress has been in the industry for quite some time now, starting at the age of 16 before becoming part of Star Circle Batch 3 three years later. She says she prefers doing character roles on TV than on film.

DEL Rosario

Conservative

Vanessa del Bianco, 21, plays someone who is quite like her in real life. "Maxine, like me, is also from Canada. She arrives in the country for the first time, so she's somewhat stunned because she doesn't know the culture and the beliefs of the Pinoys that much." Unlike the stereotype, Maxine is the most conservative and naïve among the three other women, perhaps because she's new to the country.

For the role of Mandy, another conservative but emotionally hysterical character, Jessa Zaragosa is up to the task. She somewhat provides a comical approach to being a "*manang*." "I really think of myself as a *probinsyana*," she says. "I think I'm conservative more than I am liberal. And at the same time, I feel like I'm mature for my age." True enough, with a career spanning 10 years, and having just been married at that, 23-year-old Jessa is an example of the independent woman who also happens to be a romantic at heart.

So are Filipinos ready for these girls? Of course the men are ready. The concept of liberated and beautiful women who dress in tank tops, spaghetti straps, mini skirts and shirts with plunging necklines is too hard too resist. Never mind if they talk about men who ejaculate prematurely, who are commitment-phobics and who turn out to be gay. Never mind if these girls, in the words of Reyes, "*ang bumabalahura sa mga lalake*," because for sure the men will still love them.

Now how about the women?

"What the show tackles is what happens in real life," Vanessa explains. "I think that we are just being real. If we were talking about things that don't really happen today, then that's different. But the situations that we act out are what goes on in society."

Meanwhile, Andrea feels that it would be hypocritical of them to pretend that things like premarital sex don't happen. "I'm sure women are aware of these things happening around them and in their lives. So why be bothered? We just tell them as it is." Truly, the show does offer a feminist point of view as it endorses women to think, fight and be on an equal footing with men, according to Reyes.

The idea that women can be just as libidinous as men, and openly discussing it, turn off some people, especially the older ones. But as Michelle says, she thinks it's unfair that women who can be so open are automatically labeled as sluts, when it's okay for men to be such. "It's not as if we're telling women to just have sex though," Jessa explains. "You have to be aware of the consequences of your actions. And that's what's good about our show. We don't just show the good side, the side that is all fun. We also present the possible problems or bad things that may come out of some of the decisions that you make."

ZARAGOSA

BAYLE

DEL Bianco

Coming clean

Because the show strives to come clean on issues, the girls don't find it hard to be part of the show. As Andrea said, they all have their own experiences to draw from so it's not really hard for them, as well as the audience, to relate to what happens in each episode.

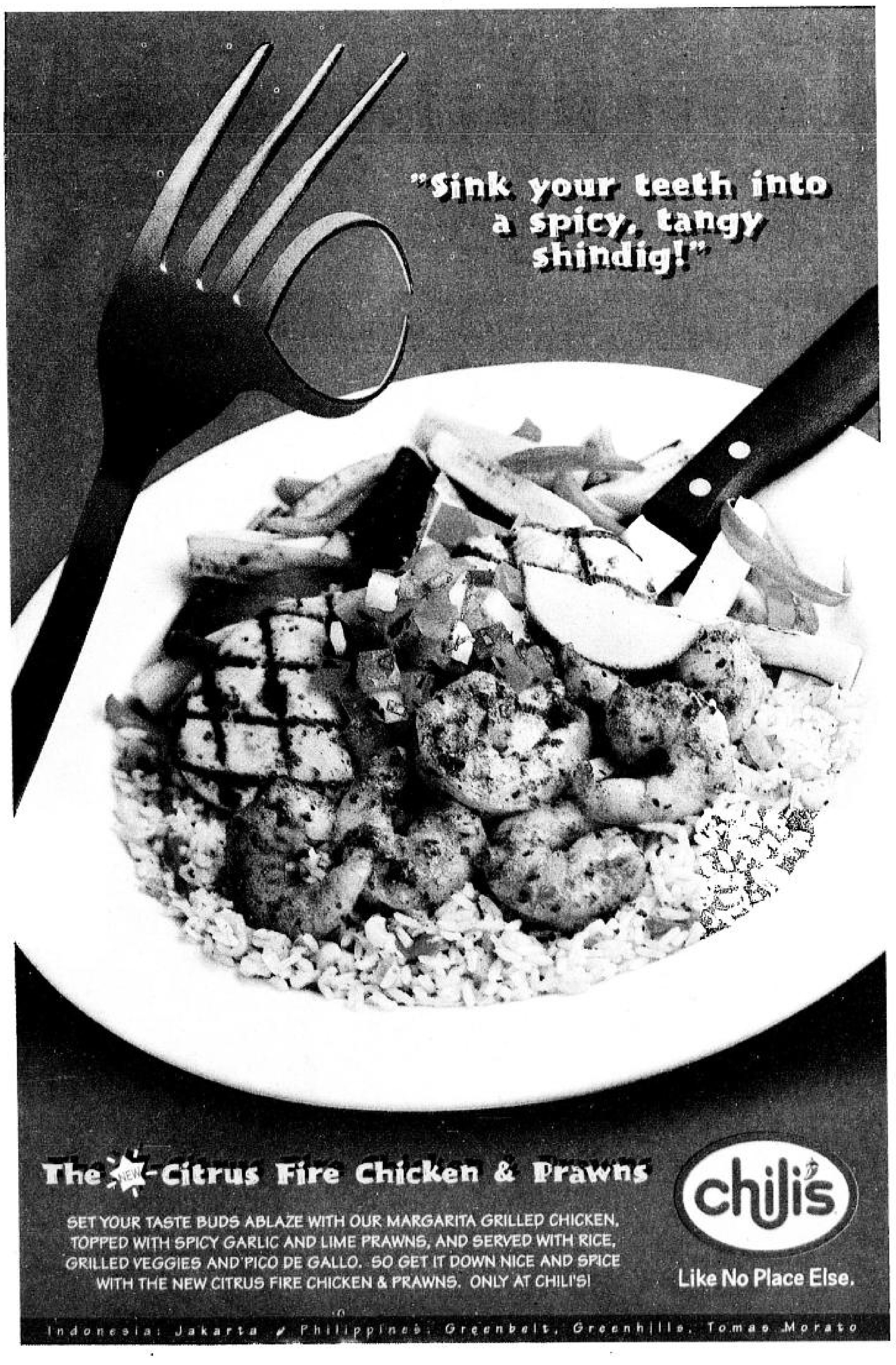
But although they portray singles and are very much into dating, they aren't daters themselves. Jessa, as we all know, is an obvious exception since she's already married to Dingdong Avanzado. Michelle, meanwhile, is concentrating on her career and is really more of a home buddy. Andrea, I learned, is exclusive to someone, while Vanessa prefers group dates because dating "makes her uncomfortable."

It became obvious from our conversation that these women aren't staunch feminists. All they want is to have equal footing with men, and still be feminine about it. In the case of Jessa, for example, she still sees her husband as the "pilot" in their relationship, and herself, the copilot. As for Michelle and Andrea, they don't even want to get into guy-bashing. "We love men. As far as our feminist point of view is concerned, we just want to be independent. We're not here to say that we are better than them," Andrea explains.

In fact, when asked about their chief complaint in men, the girls could barely give a real answer. "*Magulo sila*, in every way," Vanessa says. When asked to explain this, she said that she just find men "very messy," which sounded like she finds them dirty. Michelle, Andrea and Jessa were in chorus, saying that they hate it when men "suddenly disappear." "When they don't call you or you can't reach them through the cell phone, it kills us," says Jessa.

Also, they don't think it's okay for them to be aggressive. Michelle, for instance, would feel uncomfortable if she were the one to ask a guy out. But then again, there's really no need for them to ask a guy out. With their gorgeous looks and whistle-bait figures, guys go to them. As for premarital sex, they all think it's best if teenagers do it after marriage, or at least when they feel that they are ready for it. They admit though that it is something that happens quite early nowadays.

Judging by their opinions, it is clear that they are women who are aware of what happens around the world and who don't close their minds to it. But whatever their opinion or lifestyle, these "Attagirls" are just fine.



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What to give someone who has everything

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

What birthday gift can I give to my friend who has everything? Her family is well-off and she's not that materialistic so I always worry about what to give her. Added to that is the fact that she gives me really nice presents. Can you give me suggestions?

TETANAE

Why don't you try giving her gift certificates from her favorite stores or restaurants? It really is hard to give something that's nice and unique to someone who can buy that same gift on any ordinary day for herself.

GCs aren't inspired gifts really, but they are quite safe to give since 1) they indicate how much you really know your friend (where she looks for clothes, where she likes to eat, etc.) and 2) they still give your friend the freedom to choose, preventing mistakes such as buying something that she already has.

Another option is to give her books. If she has been looking for an old book that is out of print already, visit secondhand bookstores in malls. If she's not, it would still be nice to give her something vintage and literary, as books are never out of style and old ones usually have nicer covers than their newer versions. Plus, they come cheaper.

If none of these still seem right, you and your other friends can treat her to a picnic. One can hardly go wrong with good food and good company.

SEP

Some people would go out of their way to make their gifts memorable and make sure that their thoughtfulness would be the talk of their little circles for months. Sometimes, they try to go for the unusual bordering on the corny, saturated with irony. I once gave my girlfriend a live corpse that, when asked if it was dead, would reply "yes" but wouldn't budge nor grunt when asked if it was alive. My friend almost got excommunicated for it, which, I found out later, was what she really wanted after all. A married friend of mine gave his wife a divorce case as a surprise gift for her birthday. He said he couldn't wait for their anniversary.

But those gifts are so passé nowadays, seeing as they are too commonplace and horribly unimaginative, so I took a survey and asked some people for some birthday suggestions and this is what I came up with:

- Test her nonmaterialism by buying her the cheapest meal in the city and take pictures for proof.
- Take her on a jeepney ride and make her hand the money over or, better yet, try to get a ride for free by hanging on from the back, in the *lingua assumpta*, "make *sabit*."
- Give her a nasty look.
- Write her a top 10 list enumerating ways she can spend her wealth on other people (make sure your name tops the list and ends it as well).
- Give her bongos.
- A pet name.
- An Osama bin Laden fake beard (the more fleas and goat dung, the more authentic).
- Heavy-duty, nondeflatable balloons shaped like human appendages and decorated with nontoxic paint.
- Get a toenail clipping of your dad's, put it in a nice box with a typewritten explanation that says it comes with the big toe of her favorite saint.
- An apologetic Hallmark card for forgetting her birthday.

CALOY